

# Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

Becket, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Plainfield, Russell, Sandisfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington

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HILLTOWNS

## Police reform raises concerns across hills

By Peter Spotts

Police Chiefs across the hilltowns have concerns with the impacts police reform passed by the state legislature at the end of 2020 will have on their departments, particularly those dependent on part-time officers to fill out their patrols.

Requirements, which will add another unfunded mandate onto municipalities, to bring all officers up to the same standard of training will require towns to fund their part-time officers to get the necessary training required at full-time academies to become full-time officers. This in turn makes it less likely small towns like Huntington and Chester will be able to retain their officers.

“The minute they get their full-time ticket... Now they can go to Westfield, Southwick, Springfield,” Huntington Police Chief Robert Garriepy said. “We won’t have police departments. Who’s going to want to go through a 700 to 800-hour course [and] when they become a full-time officer, they’re not going to want to be in Huntington.”

Cummington Police Chief Michael Perkins said losing his whole department is the “worst case scenario.”

Chester Selectman John Baldasaro said it’ll be difficult for small towns like Chester to find officers.

“This is going to gut all small-town departments, absolutely gut them,” he said. “Most small-town departments don’t have people who have gone to the full-time academy. Trying to find full-time officers, that’s going to be like trying to find a needle in a haystack because everybody’s going to be looking for them.”

Sen. Adam Hinds, D-Pittsfield, acknowledged the concerns about the potential for personnel issues, but said the legislature is focusing on funding in the short term.

“It’s absolutely the case. It appears it could change the calculus of a lot of individuals. It’s of course case by case for each officer,” he said. “The conversations I’ve had with chiefs and police officers is they do appreciate the value of enhanced training and we’ll have to see how

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## WINNING BY A Thread



Katharine Nelson of Westhampton was the happy winner of the quilt raffle to benefit the Friends of the Westhampton Public Library. See story on page 20.

Submitted photo by Meaghan Schwelm

GATEWAY

## GRSC passes alt. assessment

By Shelby Macri

The Gateway Regional School Committee passed the alternative assessment for fiscal 2022, but passing all six towns will require two major decreases to be passed up by Blandford and Middlefield under the statutory method.

Under the statutory assessment, both Blandford and Middlefield will have over \$100,000 in savings — Blandford has a 7.25% decrease and Middlefield has a 21.66% decrease from last year. The difference between the two budget assessments is \$148,593

GRSC, page 14

BECKET

## Quarry Road weed app withdrawn

By Peter Spotts

Tetrahydra Agtek LLC withdrew its proposal for its marijuana cultivation facility at 509 Quarry Road, which was accepted by the Planning Board without prejudice on Wednesday, March 10.

Brian Vincent, who spoke on behalf of Tetrahydra Agtek LLC along with Michael Goodenough at multiple, lengthy public hearings with the Planning Board, said the decision was made after significant pushback from

WEED, page 16

WESTHAMPTON

## Voters pass new public safety complex proposal

By Shelby Macri

Last year, the public safety complex failed to pass the majority ballot vote for town voters, but that changed last Saturday, March 13, as voters gave overwhelming support to this year’s proposal.

There were 536 ballots cast with 350 in favor and 186 opposed, easily clearing the simple majority needed to approve the project which has been 20 years in the making.

“I think there’s a broad support in town, and I’m very grateful for all the

hard work people put in to make this project a reality,” Selectboard Chairman Philip Dowling said. “Basically, we’re really grateful to the town for recognizing that we need this new building.”

The Selectboard reviewed the special town meeting, held on March 6, and the ballot vote last weekend at its meeting on Monday, March 15. The STM was held in the Hampshire Regional school parking lot, they agreed that having the audio broadcasted to the car radios greatly helped the process of the meeting. Residents contact-

ed members of the board to express their appreciation and approval of using the car radios as it made the meeting go smoothly. The board also noted that the Town Election on Saturday, March 13, with the 536-voter turnout went smoothly.

The committee working on the proposal have been diligently on this issue for the past five years and all members will continue as the plan moves into the construction phase, with the addition of a police department member.

During the meeting, Dowling announced next

steps for the project including accepting bids for the demolition of the current building and the construction of the new building. The board accepted the lowest bid for the general contractor at \$3.641 million from W.J. Mountford Company; this bid will cover the total amount for the construction of the building. The lowest bid for the demolition was accepted at \$48,870 from Associated Building Wreckers.

The next steps for the project are to move the trucks

SAFETY, page 20

BLANDFORD

## Cobble Mountain Road stays closed

By Mary Kronholm

The Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance informed the town, by letter, that while they understood “the importance of this issue,” the Cobble Mountain Road closure after Sept. 11 will remain closed.

“It was not what we were hoping for,” said Selectboard Chair Cara Letendre.

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HILLTOWNS

Valley Press Club scholarships available for journalism students

The Valley Press Club, based in Springfield, Mass., will award up to six \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut who are interested in pursuing a career in journalism.

The Valley Press Club Scholarships, funded by contributions and dues to the Press Club, are for students planning careers in print, online or broadcast journalism.

The Republican Scholarship, funded by The Republican, is for students living within the newspaper’s circulation area who are planning careers in print journalism.

The 22News Scholarship, funded by WWLP-22News is for students planning careers in broadcast journalism.

The Edward J. Malley Jr. Memorial Scholarship, established in memory of a chief photographer for the Springfield Newspapers, is for students planning careers in photojournalism.

The Rhonda Swan Memorial Scholarship, established in memory of the award-winning journalist, editor and author, is for students who are underrepresented, in the Springfield, Mass. area, planning careers in journalism.

The Al Jaffe Scholarship, funded by Mr. Jaffe, the Valley Press Club’s first scholarship recipient in 1964, who retired in 2015 as vice president of talent negotiation and production recruitment at ESPN, is for students planning careers in broadcast journalism or sports journalism.

Primary emphasis is placed on career goals, writing ability, scholastic aptitude and overall achievement as measured by an applicant’s high school transcript, class rank, academic awards, SAT scores and extracurricular activities.

Scholarship applications are available at [www.ValleyPressClub.com](http://www.ValleyPressClub.com), high school guidance offices, or by emailing [NTassinari@TheBigE.com](mailto:NTassinari@TheBigE.com). Applications may be sent by mail to Noreen Tassinari, VPC Scholarship Chair, Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, MA 01089 or electronically to [NTassinari@TheBigE.com](mailto:NTassinari@TheBigE.com).

The deadline for submissions is Thursday, April 15. Over the course of five decades, The Valley Press Club has presented over \$130,000 in scholarships to eligible students.

The Valley Press Club consists of active and retired journalists and public relations professionals from corporate and nonprofit organizations.

COVID-19 relief available to businesses

The Hilltown CDC announced businesses, nonprofits, artists, and farmers in the Hilltowns may apply for small grants up to \$15,000 for suffering a financial impact due to COVID-19.

The grant is open to any business located in the hilltowns, even if the business owner doesn’t live in the hilltowns. Grant applications can be obtained on the Hilltown CDC’s website at [www.hilltowncdc.org](http://www.hilltowncdc.org) or by contacting Michele Kenney, program coordinator, at [michelek@hilltowncdc.org](mailto:michelek@hilltowncdc.org) or 413-354-1055.

The Hilltown COVID Relief Fund is available to businesses, nonprofits, artists, and farmers in the towns of Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Granville, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Peru, Plainfield, Russell, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington.

For more information, contact Michele Kenney at [michelek@hilltowncdc.org](mailto:michelek@hilltowncdc.org)

Senator Adam Hinds worked with Executive Director Dave Christopolis to secure \$250,000 in the State budget to provide additional support for the rural Hilltowns of Massachusetts. Due to Hind’s advocacy, Hilltown CDC received \$250,000 to provide much needed financial relief to the region. Hilltown CDC will administer \$150,000 of the fund and \$100,000 of the funding will be administered by the Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association.

POLICE

it impacts the police force itself. In the short-term were focused on the funding issue.”

Towns and chiefs are concerned about the financial burden of the additional training. Garriepy explained Huntington will be on the hook for all the training time, including travel to and from the academy. He said if, for example, an officer is attending an academy in Springfield, an eight-hour class could incur up to 10 hours of pay with fuel and other expenses on top of that; this could add up to tens of thousands of dollars in unfunded mandates from the state.

“It’s going to be a big expense to the town. It’s unfortunate,” he said. “I’m glad they’re holding a higher level of training I agree with providing the best training for our officers. The day we stop training is the day we’re failing the public.”

Funding wise, Hinds said the additional financial burden on is on the radar and they’re exploring ways to get additional funding allocated to aid small municipalities with the bill starts going into effect on July 1.

“We’re focused on ensuring everyone is on the same page right now in terms of what the implications are in terms of the hours required and the treatment of reserve and intermittent officers,” he said. “Second, identifying potential funding to support the training costs. We have taken different steps in this regard recently. Since I joined the senate, we added a tax to rental cars that is for the purpose of police training. We’ll be working in the coming weeks and months to get an allocation for smaller municipalities and departments who will kind of see a disproportionate impact of this training requirement.”

First Franklin District Rep. Natalie Blais, D-Sunderland, added the Western Mass. delegation is seeking a meeting with Public Safety and Security Secretary Thomas Turco and Interim Executive Director of the Municipal Police Training Committee Robert Ferullo to discuss the concerns of district communities.

“I meet with every select board in the 19 communities of the First Franklin District...This is something that’s top of mind for pretty much every select board. It’s certainly a concern that we have heard,” Blais said. “There’s a concern around the number of training hours, there’s concerns around the potential cost to the communities, and we want to make sure they understand during this implementation phase that our communities have questions and need answers.”

Chester Police Chief Tammy Weidhaas told her select board on March 1 that the changes to qualified immunity, removing it if an officer is decertified, will have massive impacts on officer retention across the state.

“So, if I arrest someone for domestic violence, as of right now the way law reads is you can’t sue me,” she said. “If they get rid that [qualified immunity], and now we can be sued. So, it’s



From left, Kim Kelliher, Russ LaPierre, Sherri Quinn, and Michele Kenney are ready to hit the snow for the final ski of the year at Maple Corner Farm in Granville.



Kim Kelliher, Sherri Quinn, Michele Kenney, and Russ LaPierre take a break from skiing while relaxing next to a partially frozen pool.

Submitted photos

Parent café meets next Wednesday

The Hilltown Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Council is inviting the community to a virtual Parent Café on Wednesday, March 24, at 6 p.m.

Through a collaboration with Hilltown Community Health Centers’ Family Center, Behavioral Health Network, New England Farmworkers, the Gateway Regional School District and It Takes A Village, this is an evening devoted to parents. Here is an opportunity to share stories, learn about some local resources, and strategies to stay sane during this time.

In other times, Parent Cafes have been a fun night out for parents- complete with dinner and childcare and often lively discussion. As with so much of people’s lives that have been

PARENT, page 7

from page 1

what has happened in other parts of the country.

“I’ve be in law enforcement for 30 years and I’ve never been trained in a choke hold or neck restraint and that’s in the law,” Garriepy said. “It says you will not use choke holds. I’ve never been taught that in 30 years.”

“I got into this 20 years ago. I never thought we’d be where we are now,” said Perkins. “I’m a police officer, but at the same time I feel more like a public safety officer. I do more community outreach and community policing in some aspects. You’ve got to be able to take each situation and apply it as the situation merits.”

The bill is currently in its implementation phase leading up to July 1. Blais said the Western Mass. delegation are aware and working on addressing the concerns, including Hinds; Sen. Joanne Comerford, D-Northampton; Sen. Anne Gobi; and eight representatives including William “Smitty” Pignatelli, D-Lenox, and Lindsay Sabadosa, D-Northampton. Blais encourages First Franklin police departments and communities to send their concerns and questions about how rural police departments function and are impacted by this bill to her office.

“We certainly recognize we’re heading into a budget process. Our communities are going to have to make some budgetary decisions coming up real quick,” Blais said. “That’s why we’ve requested the meeting with the secretary. It’s why the Western Mass. delegation acted together.”

quite scary to be a police officer in these times.”

“We’re all taking the same risks,” said Perkins. “If people are doing what their supposed to be doing and policing, then they need to know if they are acting to the best of their ability and trying to do the right thing and advocating for the community, they need to know [they’re supported].”

“The qualified immunity was a huge, huge factor and a lot of police officers are looking at that,” Garriepy said.

The law as passed would remove qualified immunity if an officer is decertified. Hinds said protection from frivolous lawsuits are still in effect as it been before the new bill.

“I would say that’s a misunderstanding of how qualified immunity is treated in this law,” Hinds said. “It applies a reasonable standard. I think the perception of the change is bigger than the actual change. If there’s a behavior that results in losing your certification, it could be a discussion... I think it really only applies to small number of cases at the moment.”

Blais added, “The sense I got from the chiefs was they don’t want bad actors in the police departments and the House version states that if you went through the process and were decertified, you lost the qualified immunity.”

Garriepy pointed out some aspects of the law do not reflect the way policing has been done in Massachusetts during his three decades of service and that some of the elements are a reaction to

OPINION

EDITORIAL

Double check alarms with your clocks

Everyone all caught up on their internal clocks after springing forward Sunday? Well, most of our clocks now set themselves forward, some key machines in your house don't check themselves.

Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are the early warning system to protect everyone in your home in the event of a fire and checking your alarms along with your clocks is the perfect time to do it.

"Working smoke alarms are key to surviving a fire. Unless you have newer alarms with 10-year sealed batteries, this is a good time to replace the alkaline batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms," said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey.

While winter is close to ending, there's still some cold weather left and with furnaces working hard for months keeping the interior of buildings comfortable, something may break and leak carbon monoxide; only carbon monoxide alarms will detect the invisible gas.

Ostroskey said there are too many instances of firefighters responding to incidents and finding disabled alarms during a fire where the people needed them to work.

Smoke alarms have an average lifespan of 10 years and carbon monoxide alarms typically last five to seven. Anything older than 10 years should be replaced in its entirety as soon as possible. The State Fire Code requires replacement battery-operated smoke alarms in older one- and two-family homes to be photoelectric and have 10-year, sealed, non-replaceable, non-rechargeable batteries and a hush feature.

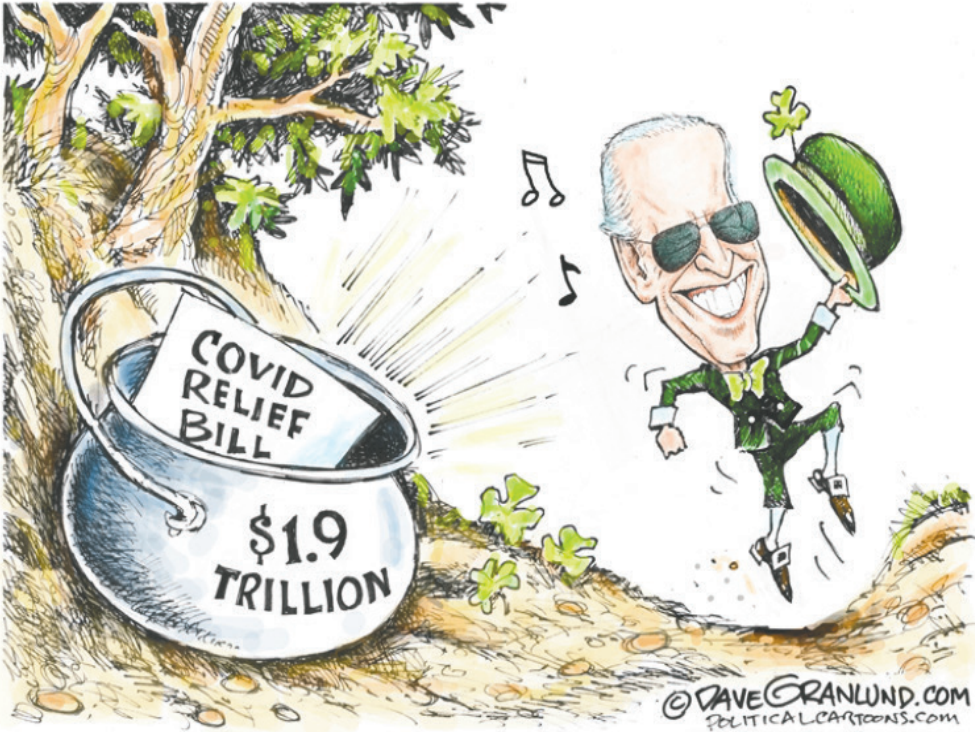
Having a functioning alarm is critical. On average, a house fire has one to three minutes for the occupant to escape safely after the alarm has sounded. Any seconds lost because of an old or malfunctioning alarm can be the difference between life, serious injury, or death.

"Time is your enemy in a fire. Working smoke alarms give you precious time to use your home escape plan before poisonous gases and heat make escape impossible," said Ostroskey.

For seniors in need of assistance in testing, maintaining, or replacing smoke alarms, the state has Senior SAFE programs standing by for 238 fire departments across the state. Seniors should contact their local fire department or senior center for assistance. Last year, four out of every 10 people who died in fires last year were over 65 per the Department of Fire Services.

For more information on smoke alarms or the Senior SAFE Program, please go to [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) or contact your local fire department.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chester Selectman not seeking re-election

After much deliberation, I have decided not to seek re-election to the Chester Selectboard this year. I will finish out my term with the same dedication and focus I've had for the past five and a half years.

Being a selectman has been one of the most interesting, challenging things I have ever done, and has brought both great fulfillment and frustration to my life. One of the inherent difficulties of the job is the structure of small-town government that basically puts a very part-time three-person board as the governing body of a multi-million-dollar corporation, while answering to citizen voters and nonvoters, and our ever-demanding silent partner, the State of Massachusetts. Our town is blessed with a

relatively small, but extremely dedicated pool of elected officials, appointees, hired staff, and volunteers who work diligently for the greater good. It has been an honor to work with each of you.

I urge anyone interested in becoming part of this working body to step up and give it shot. For me, it is time to move on.

I love the Town of Chester and will always try to give back in some way that reflects the gratitude I have for living here. Thank you to everyone who has supported me through my tenure and thank you to my fellow Selectboard members. It has been my pleasure to serve with you.

**Barbara Pease Huntoon**  
*Chester*

Police reform poses daunting consequences

The Hinsdale Select Board is hugely concerned about recently passed legislation regarding police reform. While we fully support the goal to improve policing throughout the Commonwealth, we are profoundly alarmed by the impact this legislation shall have on our community's police department.

Hinsdale is fortunate to have and be able to afford a 24/7 police presence. We are one of a few smaller Berkshire County towns able to do so, which is only possible due to the mix of dedicated full-time and part-time officers, the financial support from our taxpayers, and the effective management of a responsible and dedicated chief. Yet, this reform program, which appears to be another well-intentioned but unfunded mandate imposed on the municipalities will make it impossible for Hinsdale to sustain our highly respected police department.

The daunting training requirements proposed, and the financial consequences, are not only short term. The first burden is the initial costs to compensate officers

for training hours and simultaneously pay others to cover those workhours. Then, the ongoing need to cover the rising salaries, benefits, and ongoing training requirements to maintain certification is likely to be so burdensome more towns will struggle to maintain viable departments. Frankly, the expectations being placed on small towns' resources is unacceptable, particularly coming on the heels of COVID's devastation to our communities.

This reform package does not affect only Hinsdale; it is an issue for every police department, including all small and rural towns, coastal municipalities, Houses of Correction, and towns with large events and tourist attractions. Therefore, we implore you and your colleagues to reconsider the crushing financial demands of this reform bill so that our police department can continue to serve and protect its citizens.

**Richard Scialabba**  
**Vivian Mason**  
**Ray Bolduc**  
*Hinsdale Select Board*

A plan that is coming for you

Conservatives live in a culture today that increasingly requires them not simply to tolerate what they do not like, but to embrace what their conscience tells them is wrong and affirm what ordinary people know is false.

Worse is on the way. Near the top of the democrat list, is the passage of the "Equality Act", which would deploy federal government power to impose false and extreme frankly, mad orthodoxies about sex and gender throughout the land.

The Pelosi crowd presents this legislation as an innocuous tiding-up operation to give substance to the 2020 Supreme Court decision extending employment protections to gay and transgender people, but it would actually replace biological sex entirely with gender identity as the criterion for legal decisions.

Mandates from Washington will give biological men the right to compete in all

women's sports, use facilities intended for women, and apply for jobs, scholarships, and other opportunities reserved for women. In the name of sexual equality, women will be displaced. The message to young women striving for college sports scholarships is to give up. To girls who simply want to get changed in a locker room without a naked guy watching them, it's too bad for you, get used to it.

The "Equality Act" allows no exceptions for traditional faith and doctrine; indeed, it explicitly rejects them. Freedom of religion, of conscience, and of association are null and void. In the name of tolerance, you will obey.

This cultural revolution may soon be enforced by an army of juvenile Blue Guards. Stanly Kurtz writes "a superb expose of Democratic efforts to turn high school children into left-wing community organizers through action civics," another radical travesty

hiding behind an innocuous name. Students will be indoctrinated by their teachers and earn academic credits not for learning how government works, but for taking part in protests and demonstrations intended to bend government to their will. The same people pushing this monstrous idea are campaigning in parallel to lower the voting age to 17 or 16. Chairman Pelosi thinks this is just swell.

If you don't think this is happening, remember the Massachusetts Legislature has already passed a bill lowering the age to register to vote to 16. The Governor signed it. It went unchallenged by the state supreme court.

My observation.

Impart, most of this was taken from the editorial page of the Washington Examiner, by Hugo Gurdon.

**Ted Cousineau**  
*Blandford*

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OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Milk Lore

By Deborah Daniels

In the old days the milkman cometh and the milkman taketh away. Remember milk delivered in bottles to your door? Well, those glass bottles were expected to be rinsed out and put back on your doorstep so they could be returned and used again. They were made of heavy glass to withstand abuse. Each one-quart glass bottle almost weighed two pounds empty. Dairymen claimed it made 22.5 round trips on average before getting broken, lost, or diverted. It seemed those unscrupulous homemakers liked to keep them to use to preserve food in.

Milk was first sold in glass bottles around 1879. Prior to that it was brought around in milk cans and ladled into a homeowner's jug. That became unacceptable because of concerns for hygiene and tampering with the milk supply, specifically it was watered down. Glass bottles changed that game.

There were some interesting glass bottles made to attract customers. The small one pictured was called a cream top milk bottle. Being the land of dairy farms it once was, I have often found such broken dairy bottles on hikes. It was a distinct style that had a unique characteristic. It was designed to let the cream in milk rise to the top and be enclosed in the bulge. The homogenizing process shrinks the cream globules, making the fat blend into the milk. Alas the cream does not rise on standing milk anymore. The cream top bottle was designed by Norman Henderson of Albany, New York. A cream separator spoon was sold for 5 cents, that plugged the neck and allowed the cream to be poured off from the separated milk below. The spoon was also used to pierce the cardboard disk that sealed the milk bottle. Ingenious! The bottle came into popular use. This despite the patent for its use was not granted until four years after it was filed. The bottle was in common use by then and the spoon was patented one year before the bottle was patented. Oh, the mysteries of government regulation. The heyday of glass quart milk bottles was 1910 to 1960.

Did you know that Jersey cows make milk with the highest fat content, 4.9% fat and 3.8% protein? They originate from the Isle of Jersey in the English Channel, where no other breed of cows are allowed on the island, to keep the breed pure. Next is the Guernsey cow

with milk fat of 4.7% and 3.6% protein. This cow is also from an island of the same name in the English Channel. Holstein cows, which is where most of our milk comes from in the US, has 3.7% milkfat and 3.2% protein. Although much maligned, milk is still a nutritional heavyweight nutritionally speaking. Where else are you going to get your daily 1,000 mg. of Calcium? One cup of milk delivers eight grams of protein whether it be whole milk, 2%, 1%, or skim milk. Plant based milks such as almond, soy, rice and coconut milk deliver less than 1 gram of protein per eight ounces! How about that, you muscle builders looking to increase the protein in your diet. And more research is showing dairy fat does not add to our cardiovascular artery clogging concerns. Whole milk and Cheerios here we come.

Interestingly research is also unraveling information on why so many people are unable to digest milk. They have found that there are two types of beta casein protein in milk — A1 and A2. Cow's milk higher in A2 protein has less of an inflammatory effect on human digestive tracts. It seems the fat in milk adds more than just a rich taste. Jersey and Guernsey cows milk is higher in A2 casein proteins. Time to invest in your own heifer?

What about hormones in milk? A synthetic version of a hormone cows produce naturally called rBGH (recombinant bovine growth hormone) also known as rBST (recombinant bovine somatotropin) has been given to dairy cows to make them produce more milk. The FDA approved it in 1993 and it is used, but in fact less than 20% of US dairy cows receive it. Its use is declining. Canada and the European Union have banned its use because there is no need for it, not because it is harmful.

It is a fact that all cow's milk does contain hormones that are naturally produced by the cow and that are necessary for the cow's health. We can't filter it out.

Scientists believe young girls are experiencing puberty at an early age because of the increase in obesity and not due to hormones added to milk as some alarmists claim. Also, to clarify, antibiotics are not given to dairy cattle unless they are sick. The sick cows are separated, their milk is discarded until they have recovered, and their milk has tested negative to any antibiotic metabolites. The only nutrients added to milk are Vitamin A and D.



Hilltown cows grazing.  
Submitted photos by Deborah Daniels



A cream top milk bottle.



A cream top milk bottle advertisement from the Ladies Home Journal.  
Online image



A collection of glass milk bottles used for deliveries in the 1870s.

Now about that belching cow. They burp up 200 to 500 liters of methane daily. They are responsible for 62% of agricultural emissions. Methane is a greenhouse gas that traps 25 times more heat than carbon dioxide. Well researchers are on it. They are experimenting with adding seaweed supplements to cattle feed that could significantly reduce methane production in the cow's gut without reducing milk production. Ocean Rainforest is a seaweed farm in the Faroe Islands growing seaweed for this purpose. Will kelp flavored milk be as popular as chocolate? Keep hiking and pack your chocolate milk recovery drink!

Do you have a memory or historical curiosity from the Hilltowns that you'd like to share with your neighbors? Send your story and photos to countryjournal@turley.com.

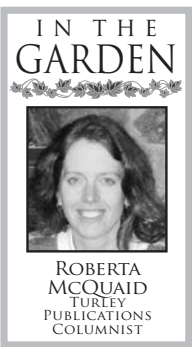
The Garden Lady tackles heirloom tomatoes

Bill, a Maryland "transplant" who continues to read the Ware River News from his new home, had this question for the Garden Lady: "My son and family think I'm Mr. Green-jeans. For Christmas they gave me a pack of "exotic" tomato seeds. Unfortunately, there are some limitations to a 15-foot by 25-foot garden plot. I would like to start some nonetheless.

Here is the list: Vintage Wine, Red Zebra, Chocolate Stripes and Black from Tula. All are from a seed company by the name of Urban Gardener in Indiana. Should I bother with these?"

Wow! You posed a wonderful question, Bill, and I am sure that the title of Mr. Green-jeans must have been earned somewhere down the line to warrant such a unique gift. I assumed that with names as poetic as these, you had been given a collection of heirloom tomato seeds. I was fascinated to learn, however, that while all of these varieties are open pollinated, not all are heirloom. What is the difference?

When I consider what the defini-



tion of an heirloom is, images of grandma's china or brooch come to mind, or in my personal case, babci's water pitcher. To accurately put it into words, an heirloom is something that has been carefully passed down through the generations of a family. The same holds for heirloom plants. They aren't here by chance, typically.

Someone took the time to care for them and save the seeds of their best fruits or flowers so that they could be preserved and shared with others. To be able to save your own seed true to type, the plants need to be open pollinated, which heirlooms are. Here, pollination occurs naturally by bees, insects, animals, careful humans or the wind and the rain. Hybrids are a whole different story, whereby two plants were cross pollinated hoping to pass on specific genetic traits. The result, the third plant, is not stable. If its seeds are saved it is likely you will end up with a fruit or flower that resembles one of the parent plants.

Saving the seeds of open pollinated tomatoes is the perfect first attempt for

novice seed savers. They are self-pollinating and will produce offspring true to the parent plant without having to isolate them from other tomato varieties. Other plants can be tricky, say corn, for example, which needs to be kept separate from other corn by miles to produce seed that is true to type. My first experience with heirloom tomatoes was in my early years at Old Sturbridge Village, where we grew tiny Yellow Pear, for awhile the pinkish Brandywine, and now the uniquely lobed Large Red. I remember my co-worker analyzing which Large Red tomato matched the descriptions from the mid-19th century and choosing to save the seeds of the most authentic looking fruit, thereby passing on accurate genetic traits to future crops. Neat stuff!

It was fun to read that the scarlet color of most modern day tomatoes was actually a gene mutation that breeders discovered and bred into fruits so that they would ripen evenly. Many champions of the heirloom tomato movement argue that this was at the expense of flavor. So Bill, you have a unique opportunity to experience Vintage Wine, a whopper of a tomato, with some of the pink, striped golden fruits weighing over

a pound.

Also the oh so sweet Russian heirloom Black from Tula, another large fruit that is deep purple with green shoulders sometimes described as "the ugliest, most delicious tomato ever grown." The more recent chance discovery, Red Zebra, is a beautiful cherry-red with yellow-orange stripes and a sweet, yet tart tomato flavor. How about Chocolate Stripe, a three to four-inch, exceptionally yummy mahogany colored tomato with olive striping that produces over a long period, taking third place winner for taste at the annual TomatoFest.

So yes, bother with these, enjoy complexities of flavor not found in the average red tomato and save the seed for those you like. I'd love to hear all about it!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

OPINION

Indian Hollow: Land of the natives

By Chad Donovan-Hall

Indian hollow is an area that starts a mile-and-a-half north of the present day Knightville Dam and continues into Chesterfield. The land and homes here were taken by the government in the late 1930s due to the construction of Knightville Dam. Indian Hollow had its own schoolhouse, a gristmill, several farms, a whetstone quarry, cemetery, and lumber mill.

Long before any white settlers came to this area it was inhabited by an Iroquoian-speaking North American Indian tribe known as the Oneida, who became attracted to the abundance of water and wildlife that this area had to offer. Traces of their existence were documented by many of the settlers from the 1800 and 1900's and can still be found today. Theodore Weeks, who lived near Indian hollow was quoted as saying "We used to find a great many arrowheads on the farm, they were broken up into flint for our firearms. A splendid one having a head as large as a robin's egg was found on a flat stone by my father."

The Oneida tribe refused to join Great Britain in the American Revolution, instead supporting the colonists and taking shelter within American lines. It is believed that they didn't have a large settlement here and were mostly limited to small hunting and fishing camps that were setup along the banks of the Westfield river. Some of the first Europeans to settle here were Christian Angell, Hezekiah Weeks and William Miller. The very first white settler to this area, Zebulon fuller who came here from Rhode Island, was surprised when he arrived and found that the Indians were not hostile. Zebulon befriended them and ended up marrying a Native American girl with whom he had three children. Zebulon and his family farmed their land and also practiced Indian customs, traditions and ways. Even though the children were of mixed race, they were regarded as Native Americans not only by their white neighbors, but by themselves.

Births, deaths or marriage were not reported or deeds to the land formally pursued. Zebulon and his wife's second born child was a daughter named Rhoda, who would go on to become a very well-known and respected Indian doctress. A former town historian was quoted as saying "Old Rhoda could cure anyone outside of the grave, and almost those who had lain in it a little while."

Rhoda had a great deal of knowledge with medicinal plants, she could be seen out in the fields loading her wagon with herbs, roots and flowers then returning home where she also had extensive gardens and manufactured her medicine. One particular medicine that she made was called the "extract," which her son Simon would help process in a large iron arch kettle behind her house. They would gather roots and herbs and boil them



A painting of Rhoda.  
*Submitted photos courtesy of Chad Donovan-Hall*

until the mixture turned into a tar like material, then it was divided into portions and dissolved into a quart of liquor.

The recommend dose was a tablespoon each morning. Rhoda charged \$2 for the medicine and nothing for her diagnosis and advice. A great number of her patients were from Springfield and she was known to make house calls on her horse as far away as Hartford, CT. She was always very kind to children and would give them maple candy from her saddle bags while passing by. After serving the hilltowns and far beyond for many years Rhoda died in 1841 at the age of 96. Wildflowers that she used as medicine still grow at the cellar hole where her house once stood which serve as a reminder and tribute to the well-respected doctress that healed so many.

By the turn of the 20th century and, with the exception of a few homes lost to fires, Indian hollow hadn't changed much at all. It was noted for its good fishing waters and a group of wealthy individuals from Springfield known as "the Walton club" would lease the land from the Landowners and be granted full fishing rights. One resident that lived near Taylor bridge was tasked with patrolling the riverbanks and making sure only club members were fishing. However, it was said that local residents could easily bribe him with a bottle of whiskey in exchange for a couple of hours of fishing for themselves.

In 1903, tragedy struck Indian hollow when a well-respected farmer, Elias Rude II was gored to death by a bull he had raised since a calf. It had reportedly become agitated after breaking into a pasture and fighting with a young steer. Elias separated the two animals when the bull turned on him knocking him backwards into a stone wall where his body was later found after a search.



A set of steps is all that remains of the L.W. Shattuck cottage in Indian Hollow.  
*Submitted photo by Chad Donovan-Hall*



Indian Hollow School in Chesterfield.

Things returned to normal for quite some time until 1936 when the Knightville Dam project was authorized after storm flooding continued to cause severe property damage and loss of life. Construction began in 1938 and was completed in 1941. Between Knightville and Indian hollow the government took 2,400 acres as well as 35 homes.

Today Indian hollow is a recreational area open to hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting and snowmobile riding in the winter. Even though the homes are long gone, the old roads, bridge abutments, cellar holes, stone walls, mines, and quarries still exist which serve as a tribute to a historic area with so much history. If you ever find yourself in Indian hollow walking the riverbanks keep a close eye out, you just might find an arrowhead or two!

Does paying FICA tax now increase my benefit?

By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty: If a person retires at age 66 and continues to work full time, Social Security taxes are still taken out of his weekly paycheck. Will this taxation for Social Security contribute more to the person's Social Security benefit, even if already retired? Signed: Curious Retiree

Dear Curious Retiree: Since its inception in 1935, Social Security has been a "pay as you go" program, where contributions from those who are working are used to pay benefits to those who are collecting Social Security benefits. That remains true even if, after you start collecting Social Security, you work and pay payroll taxes into the system.

Those Social Security payroll taxes you are contributing now aren't deposited into a personal account for you, they're used to help pay benefits to all recipients. So, paying Social Security FICA payroll taxes after you start collecting benefits doesn't affect your benefit payment. However, what might affect your benefit amount is if your current earnings from working are more than

any of those in the 35 years used to originally compute your Social Security benefit when you filed.

When you apply for Social Security benefits, Social Security adjusts every year in your lifetime earnings record for inflation to bring those earlier earnings up to today's dollar values. They then select the 35 highest-earning years over your entire lifetime, and from those 35 highest-earning years they develop your "Average Indexed Monthly Earnings" or AIME. Your AIME, in turn, is used to compute your Social Security benefit at your full retirement age, or FRA.

Social Security examines your earnings every year after your earnings for the previous year are reported to Social Security by the IRS. After your benefits have started, and if your current earnings are higher, Social Security will replace an earlier year's earnings with your more recent earnings and recompute your benefit, resulting in a small benefit increase. I use the term "small" because it would represent only 1/35th of the average lifetime earnings used to compute your benefit.

A key thing to remember is that each of your past

SOCIAL  
SECURITY  
MATTERS

year's earnings, up until you are 60, are adjusted for inflation before computing your benefit amount. So, for example, \$25,000 earned in 1990 is worth more than \$60,000 in today's dollars, and it is the inflation-adjusted amount that your current earnings would need to exceed increase in your benefit. I recently published an article on this topic which you may find helpful:[www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-does-paying-social-security-payroll-tax-increase-my-benefit/](http://www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-does-paying-social-security-payroll-tax-increase-my-benefit/).

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity.

To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).

*Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

History Matters – March 16-31: American Revolution, OK and March Madness

*History Matters is a biweekly feature courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which is awarded to children's books that emphasize the importance of American history.*

By John Grimaldi and David Bruce Smith

By March 22, 1765, the British, short on funds to absorb the costs of their military presence in the colonies, unloaded the Stamp Act on the overburdened citizenry. Already, they were anteing up for the sugar tax on imported goods, paying an assessment for paper money, and a quartering fee for the housing and food costs of the Redcoats.

The Stamp Tax levied a charge on everything from newspapers, and pamphlets, to playing cards, but that offense kicked off outrage and defiance. According to History.com, "They raised the issue of taxation without representation and formed societies throughout the colonies to rally against the British government and nobles who sought to exploit the colonies as a source of revenue and raw materials. By October of that year, nine of the 13 colonies sent representatives to the Stamp Act Congress, at which the colonists drafted the 'Declaration of Rights and Grievances,' a document that railed against the autocratic policies of the mercantilist British empire."

Although it was eventually rescinded, the public's pique unified the colonists, suffused them with nation-

alism, and, slowly, activated America's war of independence.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "The Stamp Act Crisis: Prologue to Revolution," by Edmund S. Morgan and Helen M. Morgan.

**Okay is created**

Did you know that the United States does not have an official language? The Constitution does not specify one, nor is there a law which mandates the country to speak English; most Americans have accepted it as their "mother tongue," but adapting it in a very un-British way.

HUNTINGTON

NORWICH HILL

The First Congregational Church of Huntington reminds everyone even though our physical doors are closed until further notice, we are most definitely open for worship, praise, ministry, and fellowship. We are an Open and Affirming Church inviting, welcoming, and affirming everyone — seekers, believers, and wonderers alike — on their journey of faith, to join in 10 a.m. Zoom Sunday worship.

Our readings for the Fifth Sunday of Lent, Jeremiah 31:31-34 and John 12:20-33, invite us to wonder what it might be like if our hearts were to beat in sync with God’s heart. What might we discover growing, taking root and flourishing?

The pastor is always available to speak with you. If you do not receive our emails and would like to connect with our Zoom worship service and/or fellowship time, please contact Pastor Carol at [firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com) to receive the information you will need to participate or send us a message on Facebook.

Please use the phone numbers and email address provided to stay in touch or to contact the pastor. You are also invited to find us on Facebook at “Norwich Hill” for updates, information, and spiritual encouragement. For more information, please contact 413-667-3935 or 860-798-7771 or [firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com).

HILLTOWNS  
Phase 2 vaccinations available

The local health departments of Hampshire County are pleased to share information about COVID-19 vaccination clinics in Hampshire County.

For years, the county been working together to establish plans for public health emergencies including mass dispensing. Strong partnerships, annual exercises, and robust stockpile of supplies have proved to be extremely useful in current response efforts. Recently, local first responders including police, fire, EMS, and dispatchers throughout Hampshire County were vaccinated. An effective clinic model to vaccinate members of the community safely and efficiently has been established.

Although health departments would like to offer as many different locations as possible, the COVID-19 vaccine storage, handling, administration and reporting requirements are significantly more complex than a traditional flu vaccine clinic. As a result, all vaccination sites will serve multiple communities from a region and must meet very specific requirements in order to receive vaccine. At this time, Hampshire County has two regional COVID-19 vaccination clinics in Hampshire County —The Bangs Community Center, 70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst and The Northampton Senior Center, 67 Conz Street, Northampton.

The Department of Public Health has developed a vaccine distribu-

tion timeline and it can be found at [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov). Both Amherst and Northampton sites have committed to provide vaccine distribution throughout all phases of the Commonwealth’s roll-out plan. Individuals who are eligible to receive the vaccine will be able to register via a link on the city websites [www.amherstcovid19.org](http://www.amherstcovid19.org) or [www.northamptonma.gov/vaccineclinics](http://www.northamptonma.gov/vaccineclinics).

Additional clinics will be scheduled during the coming weeks based upon weekly federal and state allotments and will follow the phased guidelines as defined by The Department of Public Health. Eligible individuals can register online for an appointment. A second dose of the Moderna vaccine will be offered on or after 28 days later to anyone who receives their first dose at the clinics. If individuals need assistance with online registration, please call 413-587-1219 for Northampton or 413-259-2425 for Amherst and leave a detailed message. A health department representative will get respond within two business days.

Please note that the vaccine is free to individuals and is being provided to the states by the federal government. Sites can bill for a small administration fee to cover the cost of running clinic and insurance information will be requested. However, no person will be turned away due to lack of insurance.

PARENT

from page 3

impacted by COVID-19, this one will look a little different. There will still be opportunities to engage with each other and parent educators- and to laugh a little, but participants will have to bring their own dinner.

Many people have “Zoom fatigue”, and that has an effect on physical and mental health, in and of itself. HCFCEC wants to have a convivial and engaging evening with conversation and brief presentations. Mostly, they want hear parents’ stories, talk about some coping strategies and share some local resources to make parents’ lives a little easier.

The evening will begin with one of the Senior Family Partners from Behavioral Health Network. She lives in the hilltowns and will share a bit of her journey, along with some things that she and others in her organization have learned. This will be followed by brief “tabletop” chats facilitated by the health center, New England Farmworkers, and It Takes A Village — all of whom will share some resources and strategies we have to help take us through the wild ride of parenting.

New England Farmworkers Council is a multi- faceted human services agency dedicated to improving the quality of life for people throughout the northeast. Among its chief programs

are home energy assistance, childcare resources, emergency shelter, employment and job training and youth programs.

Behavioral Health Network is a regional provider of comprehensive behavioral health services for adults, children and families. Among its many programs for families are the Intensive Care Coordination and Community Partner programs.

Hilltown Community Health Centers’ Family Support program is home to the Hilltown Family Center and many other community programs and services. Its community programs can connect and empower families with resources, education, and assistance.

It Takes A Village provides postpartum support and home visits to families with babies. It hosts the Village Closet, located in Huntington, a free resource for clothing and toys.

This program is a collaboration of Hilltown Community Health Centers’ Family Support program, the Behavioral Health Network, New England Farmworkers and It Takes A Village.

To get the Zoom link or for more information, contact Kim Savery at 413-685-3500 or [ksavery@hchcweb.org](mailto:ksavery@hchcweb.org). Don’t hesitate to contact for the link right before the event.

Election papers due March 24

HUNTINGTON — The 2021 Huntington Municipal Election will be held Saturday, May 15.

The following offices will be voted on at this election: Board of Selectmen, Town Clerk, Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Regional School Committee, Water/Sewer Commissioners, Whiting Street Fund Trustee, Huntington Library Trustee, Tree Warden, Moderator, Alphonso P. Pettis Fund Trustee, and Constable.

If someone is interested in being a candidate for any of these positions, they must take out nomination papers. Interested candidates will then need a minimum of 20 signatures of registered

voters in Huntington in order to submit the papers for certification.

Nomination Papers are currently available for pick up, by appointment only, from the Town Clerk on Wednesday evenings. Please contact [townclerk@huntingtonma.us](mailto:townclerk@huntingtonma.us) to make an appointment. The deadline to pick up Nomination Papers was Wednesday, March 17, but write-ins will be accepted on election day as long they’re for a legitimate registered voter of the Town.

The deadline for candidates to submit nomination papers to Registrars of Voters via the Town Clerk for certification of signatures is Wednesday, March 24, at 5 p.m.

Scavenger hunt throughout town

HUNTINGTON — The recreation committee is planning an Easter scavenger hunt for children and grandchildren of Huntington residents. Participants must sign up by calling Vicki at 413-667-0085 or email [huntingtonrec@gmail.com](mailto:huntingtonrec@gmail.com).

Clues will be able to be spotted throughout town at various locations for

a few days so participants can complete at their leisure. On Sunday, March 28, committee members will be available with a goodie bag for those who signed up and completed the hunt at Pettis field. Time to be determined.

Participants should leave name, address, phone number, email and ages of children participating.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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OPEN  
FOR BUSINESS

◆ La Cucina di Hampden House

1 Allen Street, Hampden, MA  
413-566-8324  
[www.lacucinahampden.com](http://www.lacucinahampden.com)  
CURRENT HOURS: Mon-Thurs 3-8pm;  
Sat 2-9pm; Sun 2-8pm  
Lounge open & pizza available 7 days

◆ Route 20 Bar & Grille

2341 Boston Road (The Wilbraham Shops)  
Wilbraham, MA  
413-279-2020  
[www.route20barandgrille.com](http://www.route20barandgrille.com)  
CURRENT HOURS: Lunch: Thurs-Sat starting at 11:30am; Dinner: Tues-Thurs 4-9pm;  
Fri & Sat 4-10pm; Sunday 11:30am-7:00pm;  
Sunday Brunch 11:30am-2:30pm

◆ Donovan's Irish Pub

Eastfield Mall, 1655 Boston Road, Springfield, MA  
413-543-0791  
[www.donovanspub.com](http://www.donovanspub.com)  
CURRENT HOURS: Thurs-Sat 11am-9pm;  
Sun 9am-7pm; Sunday breakfast 9am - noon

◆ Venice Pizza & Grill

2341 Boston Road, The Wilbraham Shops  
Wilbraham, MA  
413-540-8080  
[www.venicepizzagrill.com](http://www.venicepizzagrill.com)  
OPEN: Tues-Thurs 10:45am-9:30pm  
Fri & Sat 10:45am -10pm; Sun 11am-9pm  
Closed Monday

## RUSSELL

# Ice fish at WHOA on March 20

RUSSELL — Weather permitting on Saturday, March 20, the maple tree sap should once again be flowing for the Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures at the Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation in Russell.

Chuck Andrews and his family will be throwing open the doors to their Top O’ The Hill maple sugar house and offering tours of their facility, maple syrup, and treats for the WHOA visitors. Other anticipated events include the reopening of the hugely popular tomahawk range and, ice permitting, WHOA’s ice fishing staff will be on hand to aid participants in not letting “the big ones” get away.

In the areas between the Maple Sugar House and ice fishing, WHOA visitors will find a plethora of additional adventures to try. Snowshoeing will be at the Manor House, once the summer residence of the camp’s benefactor Horace A. Moses. Those seeking other challenges may learn how to land navigate the old-fashioned way through the WHOA compass courses or jump back to the present and explore the demanding geocache course and try finding the camp’s “evil hides.” Guests may also bang out their week’s frustrations pounding out a useful project from red hot steel in the blacksmith shop.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions the registration cost for all these activities remains at \$10 per person, regardless of age. The Feb. 20 activities all commence at 9 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. Regarding the COVID-19 regulations, various modifications to the usual WHOA programs are still in place.

Participants will be required to pre-register and prepay on-line at [www.wmascouting.org/WHOA202101](http://www.wmascouting.org/WHOA202101). No walk-ins or onsite registrations will be permitted. Additionally, registrations will be limited, and participants may be asked to assemble into groups of 12 or fewer individuals. Typical social distancing will be practiced with mandatory face coverings required at all times whether outside or in enclosed areas.

A full list of WHOA’s COVID-19 modifications is available on its website at [www.wmascouting.org/WHOA](http://www.wmascouting.org/WHOA).



## CHESTER

# Nomination papers available

CHESTER — The annual Chester Town Election will be held on Saturday, May 1. The following offices are up for election and nomination papers must be picked up from the Town Clerk’s by Wednesday, March 24, completed by obtaining 20 valid active Chester voters and returned to the Town Clerk by Friday, March 26.

The following positions will be on the ballot. All positions are for three-year terms: Selectboard, one seat; Library Trustee, two seats; Board of Health, one seat; Board of Assessor, one seat; School Committee, one seat; Electric Light Commissioner, one seat; and Moderator, one seat, two-year term.

Anyone can run for any office if they are a valid active voter and care about Chester. If someone is interested in picking up a nomination paper, please call 413-354-6603 and leave their name and phone number. Please repeat the phone number as sometimes it cuts out of the message. Information can also be sent to [rdalesandro@townofchester.net](mailto:rdalesandro@townofchester.net) and the Town Clerk will make an appointment to meet with the candidate.

A candidate needs just 20 signatures that can be read and are valid active voters. The Town Clerk recommends each potential nominee gets as many as possible, maybe 30, in case someone is inactive or not a registered voter.

## Easter Egg Hunt to be held April 3

CHESTER — The Chester Recreational Committee and the Chester Hill Association are co-sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt for local children on Saturday, April 3, at 1 p.m. at Emery Field.

Children should bring their own Easter basket or bag for their eggs. The Easter bunny will be making an appearance as well. Light refreshments will be served. All health and safety protocols will be followed to protect the safety of all participants. In case of rain or inclement weather, the activity will be held the following Saturday, April 10, at the same time.

Any questions may be directed to Jason Forge at 413-205-6504.

### TOWN OF CHESTER, MA TOWN TREASURER OPENING

The Town of Chester, MA is seeking qualified applicants for the position of part time Treasurer.

**Position Summary:** The Town Treasurer maintains custody of all town funds (which includes a municipal water dept and electric company). Responsibilities include the Towns’ investment, cash management, debt service management, tax title management, issuance of bonds and administration of payroll including benefits and related personnel requirements. Qualifications include working knowledge of municipal procedures relevant to the position and experience in finance. Bachelor’s degree in finance or accounts and three years of experience in the field or equivalent combination of education and experience preferred. Individual must be bondable. Individual must be willing to obtain the Mass Treasurers Certification within 5 years.

This is an appointed, salaried, non-benefited position, it is estimated the position will require 15-18 hours/week, the hours are flexible. Applications accepted until position is filled. Please send resumes to Katherine Warden, Town Administrator, Chester Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Rd Chester MA 01011. See our Town website [www.townofchester.net](http://www.townofchester.net) for complete position description. EEO/AA

## GOSHEN

# Meltdown tickets for sale

GOSHEN — The concrete block and flag are out on Hammond Pond as the 2021 Goshen meltdown is officially open now that the raffle permit has been acquired.

The flag is there to mark the location in the event the block gets completely covered by snow. Connected to an electric clock via rope, the block will stop the clock when it falls through the ice, pulling the clock out of its wall socket and stopping it at the exact time it fell.

Contestants can buy tickets predicting the date and time, down to the minute, the block will fall for \$1 each. The deadline to purchase tickets is 11:59:59 p.m. on Thursday, April 1, however the block fell through the ice on March 11 in 2016 and March 28 last year, so it’s best to get times in sooner rather than later. Tickets purchased after April 1, unless postmarked on or before that date, will be returned. This date is weather dependent and will be irrelevant if the block falls through the ice before the deadline.

The most popular dates historically are April 15, April 10, April 1, April 12, and April 13. In 2017, the block fell on April 11, in 2018 April 17, in 2019 April 13, and last year March 28.

The annual fundraiser will support the Goshen Firefighters Association this year. The association is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization supporting the delivery of fire and emergency services to the Town of Goshen and other communities in the region. As a result of the pandemic, the GFA’s largest fundraiser on Columbus Day weekend was canceled. Participation in this year’s event will help them bridge the gap until such time that life returns to normal.

To purchase a ticket, mail checks payable to Hammond Acres Club, Inc. to 2021 Meltdown, P.O. Box 923, Williamsburg, MA 01096-0923.

For more information and updates on the state of the ice and contest, visit the Meltdown Facebook page or [goshenmafire.com/meltdown](https://goshenmafire.com/meltdown); or contact Bob Labrie at [bslabrie@msn.com](mailto:bslabrie@msn.com) or 413-268-7110.

## OTIS

# Library doors reopen to public

By Kathleen Bort

After a year of losing lives, traditions, events, rituals and monies we are getting vaccinated and ready to move on. It remains to be seen whether this catastrophic disruption and terrible loss of life will be something we recover from, but it is clear that we have to build a new normal for our library. We have diligently held on to as much as we could hoping to put everything back together again. We see the power of people, the desire for human contact and human interaction and we see the power of real things. We have developed new and exciting ways to accomplish our tasks using creativity, and technology.

We are standing in an Upside-Down World! Now we invite you to become part of our move forward — re-opening the Otis Library!

We are excited to announce the safe and limited opening of the Otis Library on Thursday, April 1. Hours will be from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Saturday will be curbside pickup only. The library will be closed Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday.

The socially distant capacity of the Library will be 10 people. Therefore, admittance to the Library will be by appointment only. Please contact 413-269-0109, you can leave a message, or [kbort@otislibraryma.org](mailto:kbort@otislibraryma.org).

Patrons may use the Library for computer use. While continuing to maintain safe, strict social distancing the Library will allow three Library computer appointments and two computer appointments using private devices. Face masks & gloves are required. Appointment duration will be determined by the Library staff.

Patrons may come to the Library to browse and select materials. Face masks and gloves must be worn, and strict social distancing will be maintained. The Circulation, Roosevelt, and Non-Fiction Rooms will be opened for browsing.

Curbside Services will continue. Call the library to make requests or email requests to [kbort@otislibraryma.org](mailto:kbort@otislibraryma.org).

Librarians will work with members of the public on an appointment basis using appropriate distancing procedures and personal protective equipment. Librarian services include preparing patron request for pick up, copying, scanning, sending faxes, providing technology assistance, research and reference.

Returned Materials must be placed in the outside book depository. Librarians empty the book depository wearing gloves and masks. Returned items are placed in quarantine for 72 hours before being processed for return and subsequent circulation.

Librarians are available to help patrons learn how to access digital services. Patrons are encouraged to continue to use online services and resources. All items borrowed are fine free.

Librarians can obtain materials, prepare patron requests for pick up, and potentially work with members of the public on an appointment basis using appropriate distancing procedures and personal protective equipment.

The Annual Boston Bruins PJ Drive will begin April 1 and end on April 30. Please help us get this program back on board. Drop off your donation of new pajamas for the Cradles to Crayons Wonderfund. All donations will be distributed throughout Berkshire County.

Our Story Walks will continue monthly. We strive to continue to offer mindfulness programs for families and children. We are planning to offer a pop-up poetry program soon. We will offer a moon watching program featuring the book “Once in A Full Moon” written by West Stockbridge author Carolinda Goodman.

Do you have an idea for the library, or a talent you would like to share? Our Art Exhibition Program is available to anyone interested in showing artwork. Please contact Kathleen Bort, Director at 413-269-0109.

Kathleen Bort is the director of the Otis Free Public Library.

### Send Us Your Photos!

[countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com)



# MEET Your merchants 2020

## Get to know Hilltown Real Estate by Adams Realty

Meet Your Merchants

**Location:**  
2 Packard Park (General Store)  
Worthington, Ma. 01098  
  
20 Laurel Road (Home Office)  
Huntington, Ma. 01050  
  
**Phone Number:** 413-238-0300  
**Website:** HilltownRealEstate.com  
**Hours of Operation:**  
By appointment only  
**Owner/Manager Name:** James D Adams



**How long have you been in business?**  
In business since 1995

property sales. Our years of experience is what makes your real estate transaction a smooth process.

**What makes you stand out from the competition?**  
Hilltown Real Estate by Adams Realty has the knowledge and experience to handle the unique challenges that affects buyers and sellers in HillTown

**Why do you enjoy this business?**  
What makes this business so enjoyable is being a part of the towns community and working closely with the families to better their lives.

## Get to know BizTech Associates

Meet Your Merchants

**Location:** Sandisfield  
**Phone Number:** 413-258-8000  
**Hours of Operation:**  
by appointment  
**Owners/Manager Name:**  
Jean Atwater-Williams  
**Website:**  
www.BizTechAssociates.com



**How long have you been in business?**  
Over 25 years

development and more. Our customers are small businesses, non-profits, home-based businesses, and individuals. Experienced in providing remote assistance. Go to [www.BizTechAssociates.com](http://www.BizTechAssociates.com) for more information.

**What makes you stand out from the competition?**  
BizTech provides affordable IT. We're dedicated to providing what you actually need – no more, no less.

**Why do you enjoy this business?**  
I'm a problem-solver. Put simply, I enjoy using my knowledge, talents and experience to help my clients navigate the complex technical landscape so that computer technology works for them.

**Describe your product or service.**  
BizTech offers a wide array of computer related services: set up and installation, networks, integrating peripheral equipment, software training, custom database

## Get to know Blandford Animal Hospital

Meet Your Merchants

**Location:** 46 Woronoco Road, Blandford  
**Phone Number:** 413-848-2057  
**Hours of Operation:** Mon. 8am-7pm, Tues. & Thurs. 8am-6pm, Wed. & Fri. 8am-5pm, Every other Wed. closed at noon, Sat. 8am-noon, closed Sun.  
**Owner:** Dr. Russ LaPierre  
**Other Doctors:**  
Dr. Hazel Holman, Dr. Amber Cull-Fournier  
**Email:** blandfordanimalhospital1@verizon.net  
**Website:** www.blandfordanimalhospital.com



**How long have you been in business?**  
Opened in 1987. In 2021 we celebrated our 30th year as an AAHA accredited hospital.

in a fear free environment. We pride ourselves in our gentle approach to pet medical care.

**What makes you stand out from the competition?** We offer high quality veterinary medical and surgical services at reasonable prices. We strive to provide pet owners with a friendly, professional and respectful environment.

**Why do you enjoy this business?**  
We get the gratification of helping both people and their animals. We enjoy interacting with both clients and patients. Every day is different, and each day brings different challenges, whether a pet arrives as a routine medical, emergency or surgical case. Veterinary medicine is constantly evolving with new medicines and services which allow us to practice ever improving medicine.

**Describe your product or service.**  
We offer our clients a full range veterinary medical, surgical, dental, chiropractic and acupuncture services

## Get to know Chester Railway

Meet Your Merchants

**Location:** 10 Prospect St., Chester  
**Phone Number:** 413 354 7878  
**Website:** chesterrailwaystation.net  
**Hours of Operation:**  
Posted hours are July, Aug & Sept 11AM to 3 PM on weekends. Museum visits at other times and to camp in the caboose or arrange an event please call or Email.  
**Owners/Manager Name:**  
David Pierce, President



**How long have you been in business?** 30 years

Railroad, the reason for the station. As a designated National Historic Landmark, we are recognized by the Dept. of the Interior as a place with exceptional value for illustrating the history of the United States. As the first railroad built over a mountain and through wilderness the Western Railroad has all the heroism and struggle found in the best American narratives.

**What makes you stand out from the competition?**  
We don't have much competition, locally at least.

**Why do you enjoy this business?**  
The story of the Western RR is largely unknown. Discovering new aspects of the story and passing it on to an appreciative audience never gets old.

**Describe your product or service.**  
Chester Station is a museum and event venue. The station itself is the chief artifact. We have a small collection of roughly 100-year-old rolling stock, including a 'Children's Boxcar' hands-on exhibit and a wooden caboose where guests can spend the night. Historically, our focus is the story of The Western



# MEET *Your* merchants

## Get to know Cichy's Garage

**Location:** 5 Main Street, Williamsburg  
**Phone Number:** (413) 268-7901  
**Website:** [www.cichysgarage.com](http://www.cichysgarage.com)  
**Hours of Operation:** Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-5pm  
**Owner/Manager Name:** Collin Cichy



Meet Your Merchants

**How long have you been in business?**  
Cichy's Garage was founded in 1964. Recently, Collin Cichy took over the garage. He is the third generation of Cichy's to run the business. He has an extensive automotive background and is a graduate of UMass.

**What makes you stand out from the competition?**  
Cichy's Garage has highly trained REAL mechanics who approach car maintenance and care from a different perspective. Unlike big franchise oil change centers and/or dealers, Cichy's assesses what a car needs right now to be safe and reliable and what will likely be needed in the future. Cichy's works as a trusted partner with the car owner to keep their automobile running at an optimal level as well as plans worked out in a way that works for the owner financially. Cichy's

primary goal is to keep cars safe and reliable.

**Describe your product or service.**  
Cichy's Garage is a local, family owned and operated business delivering honest and professional automotive repair and maintenance services. We give our customers the care and personal service they expect from a hometown garage with long standing roots in the community. The quality ASE certified technicians at Cichy's are equipped to handle all major and minor repairs on foreign and domestic vehicles – including hybrids.

**Why do you enjoy this business?**  
We love being part of our small community and ALL that comes along with it...helping kids out with flat tires or a car wash fundraiser to assisting our seniors when they need help with their automobiles.

## Get to know Clockworks

**Location:** 124 Goss Hill Road  
Huntington  
**Phone Number:** 800-381-7458  
**Website:** [www.clockworks.com](http://www.clockworks.com)  
**Hours of Operation:** By online appointments only  
**Owners/Manager Name:** James and Donna Stoudenmire



Meet Your Merchants

**How long have you been in business?**  
Clockworks was established in 1995

**What makes you stand out from the competition?**  
High standards of craftsmanship in every component of a clock movement restoration.

**Describe your product or service.**  
Antique clock movement restoration, as well as retail of antique and

modern clock parts, movements, tools and supplies for the trade.

**Why do you enjoy this business?**  
Clock movements never get boring. There is always something new. My Uncle who just recently passed said the same thing, after 70 years of clockmaking there is always something he has never seen before come in. There is always a surprise around every corner.

## Get to know Cooper Excavating



**Location:** Hilltowns  
(Hampden & Berkshire County)  
**Phone Number:** 413-568-3164  
**Website:** [cooperexcavating@msn.com](mailto:cooperexcavating@msn.com)  
**Owner/Managers Name:** Bruce Cooper II

**How long have you been in business?**  
Over 20 Years.

**Describe your product or service.**  
We offer site work, septic installations and repairs, oil tank removal, Title 5, driveways and septic pumping.

Meet Your Merchants

## Get to know Chester Common Table & Carm's Restaurant

**Location:** 30 Main Street Chester Common Table  
241 Rte. 20 Carm's  
**Phone:** 413-623-8777 Chester Common Table  
413-354-1080 Carm's  
**Website:** [chestercommontable.com](http://chestercommontable.com)  
[carmsinchester.com](http://carmsinchester.com)  
**Hours of Operation:** Chester Common Table  
Thursday-Sunday 4pm-10pm  
Carm's Restaurant  
7 Days 6:30am-3:30pm  
**Owners/Managers Name:** Erin Patrick and Aaron Allen



Meet Your Merchants

**How long have you been in business?**  
We opened the Common Table in June 2016 and have served breakfast and lunch at Carm's since 2019.

**What makes you stand out from the competition?**  
Our dedication to fresh local ingredients - meats and produce come from local farms and we feature local breweries and distilleries behind the bar. Everything we serve is homemade and we craft the daily menu to respond to the season.

**Why do you enjoy this business?**  
"We have a passion for food and hospitality and are grateful for the connection to our neighbors in Chester. What better way to catch up or get to know each other than over food and drink!"

We are so grateful for the support we have received from the community over this year and remain dedicated to providing safe and comfortable dining for all.



# MEET *Your* merchants 2020

## Get to know Gateway Farm & Pet

A Division of Granby Grain Inc.  
We have “A Little Bit of Everything”

**Location:** 59 Russell Road  
Huntington

**Phone Number:** 413-667-2279

**Hours of Operation:**  
Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm; Sat. 8am-4pm

**Owners/Manager Name:**  
Tara Grenier/Paul Grenier



### How long have you been in business?

Established in 2006

### What makes you stand out from the competition?

We have you covered for all seasons’ tasks and jobs at hand – gardening, grilling, caring for pets, dressing appropriately, heating and cooling your house; beginning a new hobby like making maple syrup or starting spring seeds. We offer a large selection of Carhartt, Red Wing and Chippewa.

### Describe your product or service.

In our inventory we include many unusual gifts for all ages, as well as daily necessities. We carry supplies for maintaining your car, plumbing

and wiring your home. We also stock a large supply of lawn and garden products including plants, chemicals, soils and fertilizers. Be sure to come and check us out for any item you might need, even if it may not have been mentioned here.

### Why do you enjoy this business?

We love working with the customer – getting to know them personally, going out of our way to help them find what they need. We hope that we always give them that helpful, personal shopping experience. We deliver.



Meet Your Merchants

## Get to know Huntington Liquors

**Location:** 21 Russell Rd., Huntington  
**Phone Number:** 413-667-3201

**Hours of Operation:**  
COVID Business Hours:  
Sunday Noon - 5 p.m.  
Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Friday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Owners/Manager Name:**  
Evey Korfias & Gary Rom



### How long have you been in business?

We are originally from Chicago and moved here from N.Y. in 1997 and opened just before 9/11 in 2001.

### What makes you stand out from the competition?

Knowing the products. Keeping things local and real. We buy local to support local jobs and to help the community grow.

### Describe your product or service.

We have the best selection of beer, wine and liquor in all of the Hilltowns. We have almost over 100 different beers, including local brews from: Glass Bottom, Fort Hill, BBC,

White Lion, and Lefty’s. Featuring My Starlight Designs. Unique, modern and vintage jewelry and my new retro clothing line for the modern day woman.

### Why do you enjoy this business?

The people. Our customers share their stories and pieces of their lives with us. They are hardworking, generous people with deep and faceted experiences.

Check us out on Facebook

- Best Prices in Town
- Best Selection • Honest Lottery

Meet Your Merchants

## Get to know George D. Judd & Sons, LLC

**Location:**  
145 Berkshire Trail West  
Goshen, MA

**Phone Number:**  
413-268-7590  
800-660-7590

**Owners/Manager Name:**  
Fran & Linda Judd  
Albert Judd

**Website:**  
www.originalgoshestone.com

**Hours of Operation:**  
Monday-Friday 7:00 am-3:30 pm



### How long have you been in business?

Since 1938/83 Years

### What makes you stand out from the competition?

We take pride in producing quality products and give exceptional service to every customer.

### Describe your product or service.

We produce Goshen Stone® for stone walls, walks, patios, steps, etc.

### Why do you enjoy this business?

We enjoy meeting the customers and seeing all the various projects.

Meet Your Merchants

## Get to know Moltenbrey’s Market

**Location:** Rte. 112, Huntington

**Phone Number:** 413-667-3426

**Hours of Operation:**  
Mon.-Fri. 8am-6pm, Sat. 8am-4pm

**Owners/Manager Name:**  
Darryl Fisk



### How long have you been in business?

30 plus years for Darryl. Grandpa bought the business from George Beals, who started it in approx. 1910.

### What makes you stand out from the competition?

The only fully stocked, competitively priced, grocery market in a 12-15 mile radius of Huntington.

### Describe your product or service.

Handcut and fresh ground meats, hand-seasoned and smoked kielbasa, occasional “Darryl” cooked specials for take-out, along with a full display and selection of fresh fruits and vegetables – often seasonal and locally, organically grown.

**Why do you enjoy this business?**  
People. For example for the past five or six years at Christmas time an anonymous customer gives to assist anonymously those in need temporarily. Grandfather started this tradition and it continues.

Always the Best!



Meet Your Merchants



# MEET Your merchants 2020

## Get to know Hilltown Law Offices of Morisi & O’Connell

Meet Your Merchants

**Location:**  
142 Westfield Rd. (Rte. 20)  
Russell, MA  
**Phone Number:** 413 667-5200  
**Website:** www.morisi-oconnell.com  
**Email:** moc@morisi-oconnell.com  
**Owners/Manager Name:**  
Attorneys Martin O’Connell,  
Mark Morisi & Daniel Shea



**How long have you been in business?**

The law firm was established in 1985.  
Our attorneys offer over 100 years of combined experience  
and offer a wide range of legal services including:

**Real Estate**  
**Estate Planning & Probate**  
**Personal Injury**  
**Small Business Formation and Consultation**  
**Criminal Defense**

Our law offices have been located in the Hilltowns since 1998.  
Our attorneys are available to meet  
at times convenient to our client’s schedules.

## Get to know Papa Bob’s

Meet Your Merchants

**Location:** 71 Chester Road, Becket, MA  
**Phone Number:** 413-623-8777  
**Hours of Operation:** Our business hours  
change according to the season  
Beginning May 1st  
Monday through Wednesday 4:00 p.m. to close  
Thursday through Sunday 12:00 p.m. to close  
**Owner/Manager Name:** Tami, Bob & Papa Bob  
**Facebook:** Papa Bob’s Entertainment Hall  
**Website:** papabobsbecket.com



**How long have you been in business?**  
Uncle Larry’s Bonnie Rigg was  
purchased by Bob, Tammy and Papa  
in 2017

**What makes you stand out from the competition?**  
As owners we discovered we are not  
just in the hospitality business it is  
our job to upkeep and grow a piece of  
the Berkshires history a place so many  
keep in their heart through memories  
going back longer than we imagine

**Describe your product or service.**  
Our goal of owning an establishment  
with a laid-back feel and welcoming  
safe atmosphere for individuals and  
families alike has been unraveling  
little by little over the last few years

we have added indoor and outdoor  
dining options along with a family-  
friendly ice cream area and offer great  
entertainment. While our system is  
still unraveling, we have an amazing  
staff willing to adjust to make your  
experience with us great each time  
As we celebrate four years in  
business July 2nd 2021 we hope you  
will take some time to visit Papa Bob’s

**Why do you enjoy this business?**  
Being new to the Berkshires and the  
needs of the community we decided  
to softly open through twists and  
turns ups and downs we made many  
new friends while discovering that  
these talented caring well-rounded  
people are the heart of Papa Bob’s.

## Get to know Wolcott Realty

Meet Your Merchants

**Location:**  
142 Westfield Rd.,  
(Rt. 20) Russell  
**Website:**  
www.wolcottrealty.com  
**Hours of Operation:**  
We will meet with you at our  
office or at your home and at your  
convenience!  
**Owners/Manager Name:**  
Eva Best  
413-241-1848  
eva.best@comcast.net  
Mary O’Connell  
413-218-4344  
moconnell25@comcast.net  
Dorinne Rodriguez  
drod61@gmail.com



**How long have you been in business?**  
Wolcott Realty has served the Hilltown Community for more than 70 Years!  
Because we are local, we have great experience servicing the Hilltown market.  
We have agents who live and work in the Hilltowns.

Let us help you buy or sell your home or business!

## Get to know Cummington Supply

Meet Your Merchants

**Location:**  
18 Main Street, Cummington, MA  
**Phone Number:** 413-634-8868  
**Email:**  
cummingtonsupply@gmail.com  
**Hours of Operation:**  
M-F 7-5. Sat. 8-12, Closed Sun  
**Owner/Manager Name:**  
Gus Perkins



**How long have you been in business?**  
47 Years

**What makes you stand out from the competition?**  
Second generation Family owned  
business. Personalized attention and  
competitive pricing.

**Describe your product or service.**  
We sell building products. Everything  
you need for your Foundation,  
Framing, Sheathing, Roofing, Drywall,

Windows and Doors. Some of the  
brands we sell Marvin/Integrity,  
Therma Tru, Simpson, Brosco,  
National Vinyl and Valspar.

**Why do you enjoy this business?**  
We enjoy helping people succeed  
with their projects. Everything from  
a “simple machine” school project  
to building your new home and  
everything in between. Being part of  
the community is an important part  
of why we are in business.

# BLANDFORD

## RESTING HISTORY



The cemetery is the resting place of Revolutionary War veteran David Frost.



Kim Kelliher visits the Old Stannard Road Cemetery on Beech Hill in Blandford, adorned with the last vestiges of winter. The cemetery was established in the early 1800s.

Submitted photos



Liz Massa and Russ LaPierre examine the historical tombstones.



Kim Kelliher takes a moment to read the names on the tombstones.

## ROAD

from page 1

Quoting from the letter signed by Carol W. Gladstone, DCAMM Commissioner, Letendre continued, “the determination has been made to continue the current status of keeping the road closed to non-emergency personnel. This decision is made in an effort to maintain the integrity and security of the Cobble Mountain Reservoir and the Cobble Mountain Reservoir Dam, as well as the surrounding communities.”

The letter also stated that although the “road will remain closed, DCAMM understands that the City of Springfield will ensure that the proper public safety personnel in the Town of Blandford receive keys to all gates along the roadway for use in the event of an emergency...”

Cobble Mountain Road was originally a county road. When the county system dissolved, the road came under DCAMM’s authority.

According to Highway Superintendent Rene Senecal, Granville “has thrown another wrinkle” into the mix.

Granville owns the bridge over the overflow. The bridge needs to be inspected and possibly even re-commissioned. In 2004, according to Senecal, the state was denied access to inspect the bridge and at that time Springfield Water and Sewer Commission was informed that there was a 30-day window for an inspection which apparently did not hap-

pen. Senecal believes the town should put pressure on DCAMM for maintenance of the road.

“DCAMM is not thinking of the whole road, I know they don’t have funds to take on the whole road,” said Senecal. If DCAMM is taking on responsibility for a portion of the road, they should take on the “rest of the road.” Senecal said the town should tell DCAMM that they need “to fix it, you need to take care of it, you need to plow it, or you need to come up with some serious funding for Blandford.”

Town Administrator Joshua A. Garcia has not responded yet, as he is considering other options; perhaps opening the road for passive recreation, for hiking is one.

Another issue is, according to Garcia, that the town collects C. 90 funds for Cobble Mountain Road, which has complicated serious maintenance/repairs for adjacent town roads including Crooks Road.

According to Senecal, paving work was intended to be done on Crooks Road and at the same time on Cobble Mountain Road, which is “under DCAMM” and the town can’t repair any more on Cobble Mountain Road using Federal money.

Garcia proposes having the road turned over ownership to the town, from the town line Route 23.

Then the town can maintain the road, providing access to residents for passive recreation.

Senecal suggested that perhaps the town should collectively attack this with Granville for a little more support and push DCAMM to either take the road or restore it.

Should DCAMM take on responsibility for the road, the town would have to adjust the Ch. 90-dollar amount with the state; according to Senecal, this would amount to about \$10,000.

“Keep fighting the fight,” he said. “We want it all back as it was prior to 9-11.”

In other business, the Select board voted to move the Annual Town Meeting to June 21 as permitted by Mass. General Laws.

The board also approved participating in the Franklin Regional Council of Governments bidding process for gasoline and diesel fuel. The cost to the town is \$340 for the two fuel components.

The board approved moving forward with negotiations for an Owner’s Project Manager for the Highway Facility and Fire Station. Negotiations will start with City Point Partners, and if necessary move on to Construction Monitoring Services, Inc. and Colliers International.

According to Senecal, City Point appears to have the most knowledge of the area and the type of programs similar to what the town is looking at, and also,

within the cost range.

There was also a question about degradation on the edges of South Street. Senecal said the plan is to put in dense grade this spring, and needs the area to dry out first. Right now his department is working on Blair, Gibbs, Huntington and Hayden roads.

The board discussed a possible change in the job description for Highway Superintendent. It was decided not to make additional licenses requirements because Senecal said that it was more important to have the superintendent’s priority should be management. Additional licenses will be left as preferred and not required. Emphasis, according to Senecal, should be on how the superintendent manages the crew and can he accomplish the mission.

Doris Jemiolo asked if something could be done about the 18-wheelers going up and down Beech Hill Road making ruts in the road. Apparently the trucks are tri-axle dump trucks working on a project, possibly in Granville or Tolland. According to Highway Superintendent Rene Senecal, “From what I understand it should be over within the week.”

Senecal said that Beech Hill is rated for tri-axle trucks, as is the bridge. The board refers such matters to either or both Highway Department or Police Department.

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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Conwell school monitoring review conducted this week

WORTHINGTON — During the week of March 15, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s Office of Language Acquisition will conduct a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review of R.H. Conwell Elementary School. The Office of Language Acquisition reviews each district’s and charter school’s ELE program every six years to monitor compliance with federal and state English learner education laws and regulations. Areas of review will include English learners’ student assessments, identification of English learners; what programs English learners are placed in, parent and community involvement, curriculum and instruction, student support services, licensure requirements for faculty, staff and administration, program plans, and evaluation and recordkeeping.

In addition to the onsite visit, parent outreach is an important part of the review process. The review chairperson from the Office of Language Acquisition will send a survey to the parents of students whose records the review team examines. The survey focuses on key areas of their child’s English learner education program. Survey results will contribute to the monitoring report.

Parents and other individuals may call Meto Raha, Office of Language Acquisition Review Chairperson, at 781-338-3548 to request a telephone interview. If an individual requires an accommodation, such as translation, to participate in an interview, DESE will make the necessary arrangements.

Within approximately 60 business days of the onsite visit, the review chairperson will provide the school with a report with information about areas in which the R.H. Conwell Elementary School meets or exceeds regulatory requirements and areas in which the school requires assistance to correct or improve practices. The report will be available to the public at [www.doe.mass.edu/ell/cpr/?section=reports](http://www.doe.mass.edu/ell/cpr/?section=reports).

GRSC

from page 1

for Blandford as the town would be saving \$119,342 under the statutory assessment, but paying \$29,251 with the alternate assessment. In Middlefield, the town would save \$107,186 with statutory and pay \$8,788 with the alternate plan.

While these are big swings in savings under the old method, other towns will be hit with large increases; the goal of the alternative assessment has been to remove these swings.

“The alternative assessment provides a mechanism that would allow towns to plan ahead for the financial impact of the school budget on the towns,” Superintendent David Hopson said. “Planning for a small increase each year is much easier than planning a budget when some years you have significant increases and other years significant decreases.”

Hopson said while Blandford and Middlefield have the largest difference between the two assessments and will pay more with the alternative, town officials have indicated they will support the alternative method on the floor during annual town meetings.

Chester and Montgomery would be paying the most under the statutory assessment. Chester would pay \$137,040 and Montgomery would pay \$122,611 on the statutory assessment. However, under the alternative assessment approved by the school committee, Chester would only have an increase of \$27,162 on the alternative assessment and Montgomery an increase of \$17,500; both towns would save over \$100,000.

Russell would also benefit from the alternative assessment as the difference between the two is \$47,727 and the alternative assessment would allow Russell to pay \$37,297. That is opposed to \$85,024, or a 4.05% increase, under statutory.

Huntington’s statutory increase is 1.84% and the alternative assessment is a 1.78% increase; the difference of payments between the two is only \$1,859.

In previous years, the towns have passed the statutory method for the budget, but Hopson said the fact that the alternative saves some towns money and is essentially equal for Huntington, as long as all current numbers hold, the alternative method may pass this year. The alternative assessment was approved by the School Committee and towns will vote on it at their annual town meetings; they can amend and adjust the figure on the floor during the meeting if they’re not in favor of the assessment.

“The budget is reviewed in February, the first Wednesday in March is the public hearing on the budget, the second meeting in March of the School Committee is the budget adoption meeting, and then assessments are provided to the towns,” Hopson said. “Both the statutory and alternative amounts are provided to the towns for informational purposes. Towns vote the budget in May and June, and adjustments to the town assessments may be made after that and are dependent on the final Chapter 70 and transportation reimbursement amounts included in the state’s adopted budget.”

The School Committee discussed the alternative method, and it will help the majority of the district towns, while it costs two towns to give up large savings, and were in favor of sending the alternative method to the towns for annual town meetings.

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Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

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WESTAMPTON  
Collectors work on tax bill solution

By Shelby Macci

The Selectboard discussed a variety of issues during their first meeting of the year on Monday Jan. 4, including a "small town" in the hills with tax bills.

Tax Collector Patricia Connor just started as the town's new collector on Friday, Jan. 1.

Connor said that as the town's new collector, she met with the previous collector, Ann Moore, on her first day, Thursday, Dec. 31, where the two can take a problem with tax bills.

Connor said she received calls from someone who received bills for property's

Lake Life

Littleton Lake in Huntington sits calmly before that week's winter squall. Submitted photo

BLANDFORD  
Looking ahead to new year in town

By Mary Krusholm

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WILLIAMSBURG

Outdoor browsing at Meekins planned for Saturday

By Peter Spotts

WILLIAMSBURG — As Meekins Library works towards reopening its doors, it’s planning to introduce popup browsing this weekend to bring additional options for residents to see what’s new at the library since the COVID-19 pandemic started.

Weather permitting on Saturday, March 20, the library will have new items acquired over the past nine months on the patio for patrons to browse. Space will be limited to four or five people at a time to comply with social distancing requirements.

“We’ll roll things out onto our patio. We’ll advertise it n Facebook and our websites because it has to be okay with the weather and all that stuff,” Director Beverly Bullock said. “It looks like it’s

going to be okay with the weather. We’re shooting for this Saturday.”

Bullock said the phased reopening plan is hopefully going to start next month with residents being able to come in for browsing and computer use.

An eight-week facilitated discussion is beginning on Wednesday, March 31, and will be run by Phyllis Labanowski. Labanowski will be guiding the discussion through “Mindful of Race: transforming Racism Inside and Out” by Ruth King. She’s currently wrapping up the program in Amherst.

“We’re pretty excited about it. She really wants it to be local people from around here,” Bullock said.

Each session will run on Wednesdays from March 31 through May 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. on Zoom. Registration is required and space is lim-

ited to 11. Anyone interested in being a part of the group must email Labanowski at [phyllislabanowski@comcast.net](mailto:phyllislabanowski@comcast.net). Copies of the book are available at the library once someone is registered.

The next Meekins Zoom Book Club meeting will be on Thursday, April 1 at 7 p.m. The club will be discussing “From These Broken Streets” by Roland Merullo. Contact [meekinsbooks@cwmarcs.org](mailto:meekinsbooks@cwmarcs.org) for a Zoom link.

Next month, Meekins will also be joining the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read program across the region. The NEA Big Read: Pocumtuck Valley is in partnership with Tilton Library and more than 40 other organizations and businesses in Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden counties. The book being read is “Station Eleven” by Emily St. John Mandel.

Meekins will have its own book discussion in April, but the culmination of the event is on April 27 with a Zoom call with the author. For more information, visit [deerfield-ma.org/nea-big-read-pocumtuck-valley](http://deerfield-ma.org/nea-big-read-pocumtuck-valley).

“One of the huge culminations will be the author coming to do a zoom presentation. We can accommodate 500 people for that discussion,” Bullock said. “It’s going to be interesting to see how it all plays out. It will have programs spread out between April and October.”

Curbside pickups continue at its usual times of Tuesdays from noon to 2 p.m., Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m., Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from noon to 2 p.m. For more information about upcoming programs or library services, visit [www.meekins-library.org](http://www.meekins-library.org) or call 413-268-7472.

Local students earn Dean’s List

WILLIAMSBURG — Hannah Labrie and Sydney Shumway both earned Dean’s List honor at Simmons University for the fall 2020 semester.

To qualify for dean’s list status,

undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

WORTHINGTON

Local student makes Dean’s List

WORTHINGTON — Ann Matica was named to the fall 2020 Dean’s List at Emerson College.

The journalism major qualified by earning a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for the semester.

Based in Boston, Massachusetts,

opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city’s Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning.

CHESTERFIELD

Local student named to Dean’s List

CHESTERFIELD — Joseph Laliberte was named to the MassBay Community College Dean’s List for the fall 2020 semester.

Laliberte is a psychology/sociol-

ogy major. To be eligible for the MassBay Dean’s List, students must complete six college-level credits and earn a grade point average of 3.50 or higher.

MIDDLEFIELD

Town election, meeting, caucus dates set

MIDDLEFIELD — The Annual Town Election will be held on June 26 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Annual Town

Meeting will begin at 2 p.m. on June 26 as well. The Town Caucus will be held on May 19 from 4 to 8 p.m.

MIDDLEFIELD SENIOR CENTER

Lunch is served at the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, each Wednesday at noon.

A \$3 donation is suggested. Reservations should be made, and meal choice stated, by calling and leaving a message at 413-623-9990 the Monday

before. Pick-up and delivery are available.

The menu on Wednesday, March 24, is homemade meatloaf with gravy, mixed vegetables, whipped potatoes, whole wheat bread, and chocolate pudding with whipped topping.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for the *Country Journal*, please email [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com).

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BECKET

Author hosts virtual reading

BECKET — “Amphibians” invites further contemplation of what it means to reside in a female form; it celebrates home cross-culturally, and the sensation of feeling not quite right in one’s own skin, on land and near water, at home and abroad.

Join author Laura Tupper for a virtual author reading on Saturday, March 20, from 1 to 2 p.m. Tupper is author of the novels “Off Island” and “A Thousand and One Nights.” She writes, teaches, and sings in the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts. She is also a jazz/pop performer who has traveled the world.



Laura Tupper

Joining Tupper in conversation is Matt Tannenbaum, long time proprietor of The Bookstore in Lenox. One of the secrets of Matt’s success is that he still loves reading books, as well as selling them. As someone who has had the good fortune to have surrounded himself with good books all his life, he feels obligated to do the same for anybody who walks into his store. He shudders to think who or what he might have become if not a bookman.

Pre-registration is required at [bit.ly/BA-lara-tupper](https://bit.ly/BA-lara-tupper). For more information, visit [www.becketathenaeum.org](http://www.becketathenaeum.org).

Explore wild edibles on virtual river walk

BECKET — The Becket Athenaeum is excited for people to learn about edible wild plants from Russ Cohen in Part 2 of his videos recorded May 2020 along the River Walk in Great Barrington.

Meredyth Babcock, Westfield Wild & Scenic Outreach Coordinator, will facilitate discussion and answer questions. Automated closed captioning

available. Pre-registration is required at [bit.ly/BA-housatonic-part2](https://bit.ly/BA-housatonic-part2). The event will be recorded and posted to the Becket Athenaeum YouTube page.

This program is funded by grants from the Central Berkshire Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and Fairfield County’s Community Foundation.

Jacob’s Pillow announces festival

BECKET — Jacob’s Pillow announced its plans to host a multi-platform virtual and on-site Festival in 2021, undertake substantial renovations to the Ted Shawn Theatre, and complete Vision ’22, a five-year strategic plan established in 2017.

The organization has launched the public phase of its Dance We Must fundraising campaign to support the final leg of Vision ’22 — including the completion of Ted Shawn Theatre renovations by the organization’s 90th anniversary in 2022 — with \$2 million to raise towards a goal of \$22 million.

“The Pillow has endured, despite experiencing the toughest year in our history with the cancellation of Festival 2020 and the tragic loss of the Doris Duke Theatre. We put these losses in the context of all of the tragedy our country, and the world, has experienced this past year,” said Pamela Tatge, executive & artistic director. “Back in 2017, we set ambitious goals for the future and the evolution of Jacob’s Pillow. We have had extraordinary momentum thanks to the generosity of our Board and the many donors who understand the importance of investing in dance and artists.”

Tatge added, “There is still so much to do, but with the support of our community—everyone who knows

and loves the Pillow—I’m confident that we will complete the final chapter of our plan, the Ted Shawn Theatre renovation, in time for our 90th Anniversary in 2022.”

The Ted Shawn Theatre is the centerpiece of Jacob’s Pillow, opening in 1942 as the first theater in America built specifically for dance. Many of the world’s most notable dance artists have performed and premiered works on its stage, international companies have made their U.S. debuts, and many careers have been launched in this iconic performance space.

All Pillow artists since 1982, and many from the previous decades, are recorded and housed in the Pillow’s extensive Archives. The Ted Shawn Theatre renovation will provide much-needed upgrades backstage and in the performance space and will also include a new ventilation and air-conditioning system, a necessity for post-COVID-19 performances.

The Pillow is also moving forward with plans to build a new theater to replace the Doris Duke Theatre, which was destroyed by a catastrophic fire on the morning of November 17, 2020. Plans for a new theater capturing the warmth, flexibility, and intimacy of the original Doris Duke Theatre will be announced this fall.

WEED

from page 1

town residents over the course of several months of hearing continuations.

“There was a lot of pushback from the people in the area, so we decided it wasn’t the right time,” Vincent said.

Planning Board Chair Robert Ronzio explained to the Zoom audience of almost 20 people that the designation of without prejudice does allow Tetrahydra Agtek LLC to apply again in the future.

“We certainly would welcome any application that you might have,” Ronzio said.

Had the board elected to accept the application with prejudice, then Tetrahydra Agtek LLC would have to wait at least two years before applying for another license in Becket. The board used this power last June, when it accepted the withdrawal of an application by John and Michael Conboy with prejudice. This was because of a town bylaw barring the consideration of a special permit by an applicant who owes taxes.

Vincent said they may look to return to Becket in the future, but for now will be focusing on other ventures in New

York and Connecticut. “We haven’t ruled it out. We just kind of needed to reassess our plan moving forward because there’s a couple other projects we have in the works,” he said.

The proposal had been in public hearings since January, with continuations occurring multiple times as board members and members of the public requested more information and brought concerns to the table. The project would’ve seen an indoor and outdoor grow facility on a portion of 10-acres

leased from property owners Josh and Adrienne Metcalf.

Each of the hearings in January and February drew more than 60 residents to the Zoom Call and lasted deep into the night as questions and concerns over odor, environmental impacts, power, water, security, traffic, and more were debated and discussed.

There are no other current marijuana business applications active in town at this time. The marijuana retail establishment Canna Corner celebrated its grand opening on Sunday, March 7.

Canna Corner Correction

In “First hilltown marijuana store opens doors,” The Country Journal, March 11, it was reported patrons must be 21 years of age or older and require a Massachusetts ID to purchase items at Canna Corner. Any adult over 21 with any state ID, passport, or license can purchase products at Canna Corner.

News, photo publication policy

As a community newspaper our focus has always been local news. While we try very hard to run upcoming events as a public service whenever space allows, space does not allow us to run an upcoming event repeatedly. Our policy is to limit publication of upcoming events to one article in advance of the event and, space permitting, a second brief reminder article the week prior to an event, and to run those articles in only one section of the paper, and not in multiple sections simultaneously.

All such public service announcements and photos are subject to space limitations and deadlines, therefore publication cannot be guaranteed. Whenever copy for the week exceeds allotted space, news copy will take priority, and public service copy is the first area to be cut. We also reserve the right to edit for style and space, and are under no obligation to print lists of sponsorships, or articles that arrive after deadline, unless time and space allows.

Deadline is Monday at NOON, on holidays it is Friday at 2 p.m.



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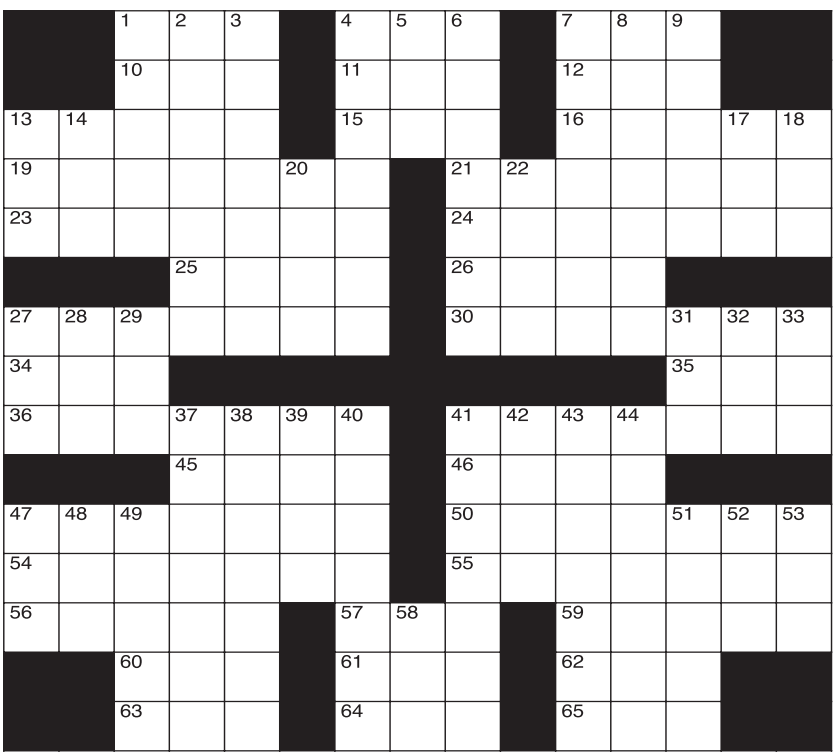
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### CLUES ACROSS

1. \_\_\_ fi: popular genre

4. Curved shape

7. Defunct airline

10. Beverage receptacle

11. Corporate bigwig

12. Belong to he

13. They cover cuts

15. Cost per mille

16. Walk into

19. Power-producing machine

21. Part of one's character perceived by others

23. Emotionally appealed to

24. Protected

25. Wrestling icon

26. Thailand's former name

27. Muscle weaknesses

30. Chooses

34. American film studio

35. Expression of satisfaction

36. Mythical winged horse

41. Ballplayers

45. Edible seaweed

46. Chinese politician

47. Tested for fertility

50. Glove worn with medieval armor

54. Basaltic lavas

55. Small shoaling fish

56. Surrendered

57. Taxi

59. Potato part

60. Female sheep

61. Trouble or difficulty

62. Put into service

63. Soviet Socialist Republic

64. 17th letter of Greek alphabet

65. Type of student

### CLUES DOWN

1. Frighten

2. Partner to corned beef

3. Parts

4. Agrees to a demand

5. Elected official

6. Navigator's tool

7. Relating to heat

8. Attractive

9. Wealthy US merchant

13. Engine additive

14. A passage with access only at one end

17. Midway between northeast and east

18. Cool!

20. Brazilian NBAer

22. NW Pennsylvania city

27. Young dog

28. Mimic

29. Large truck

31. The NFL's Newton

32. One and only

33. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo

37. Julie \_\_, actress

38. More nourishing

39. Compound

40. A small carrier attached to the side of a motorcycle

41. Object of fear or alarm

42. \_\_ Ladd, actor

43. Sacred place

44. A way to express enjoyment

47. Trigonometric function

48. A team's best pitcher

49. Intersecting points

51. Roundishly shaped

52. Adam's partner

53. God of battle (Scandinavian)

58. Human hormone

# THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

## ARIES

**Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Concern about the plight of the less fortunate could be on your mind, Aries. You may have many questions about humanitarian issues and be wondering how to get involved.

## CANCER

**Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Cancer, you enjoy caring for others and regularly put your needs aside to cater to friends and family. But this week you are the one who needs advice and help.

## LIBRA

**Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Do not fight the thoughts or feelings that are running through you this week, Libra. Some may not pan out, but something may come through that sets a new course for you.

## CAPRICORN

**Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Capricorn, even though you have a solid game plan in place, you may experience a few challenges along the way. Use these experiences to learn from your mistakes.

## TAURUS

**Apr 21/May 21**  
You normally are a very active person, Taurus. Figure out ways to channel that activity into something for the greater good — as well as something that can benefit you.

## LEO

**Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Try to find things that can keep you occupied at home while you wait for an appointment or spend a lot of time indoors, Leo. Home projects may be an option.

## SCORPIO

**Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Sometimes you can be a bit vague when it comes to relationships, Scorpio. Be clear about your intentions if you are thinking of getting into a new relationship.

## AQUARIUS

**Jan 21/Feb 18**  
This week you may have a conversation with someone who opens your eyes to entirely new possibilities, Aquarius. Embrace this exciting time.

## GEMINI

**May 22/Jun 21**  
You will enjoy a break where you can relax and decompress for a change. Maybe you can use it as an opportunity to be introspective and forward-thinking.

## VIRGO

**Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Virgo, friends keep calling but you may not be in the mood to do the receiving. Don't isolate for too long, as support from others is important and beneficial.

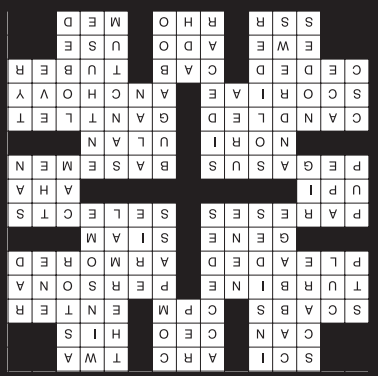
## SAGITTARIUS

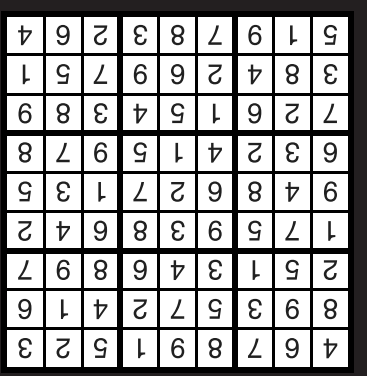
**Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Learning how to read other people's emotions can help you learn to interact with and support those around you, Sagittarius. Practice your skills of perception.

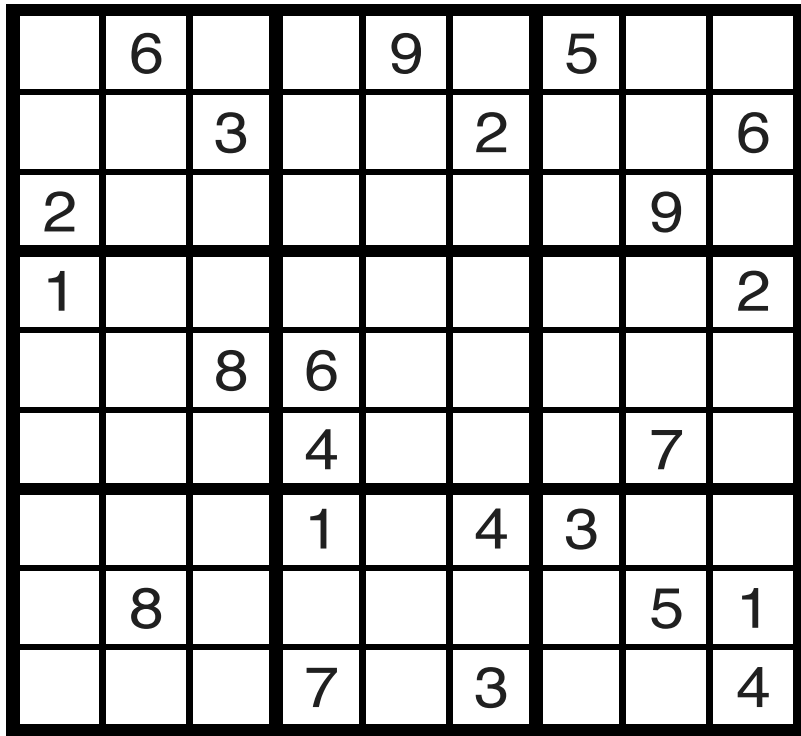
## PISCES

**Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Don't avoid conflict at all costs, Pisces. Rather, learn effective ways to face any and all events that come your way. You'll be more well-rounded.

answers







# SUDOKU

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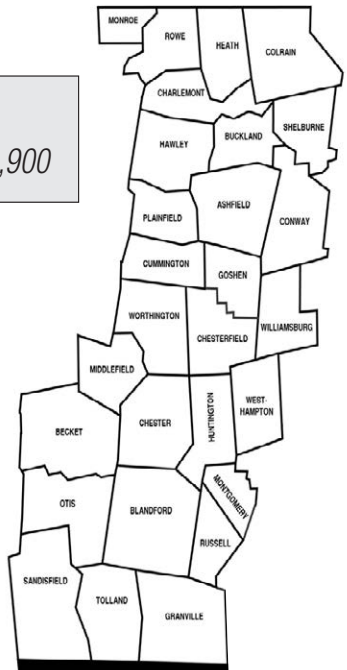
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1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$9.50
21 Base Price \$10.00	22 Base Price \$10.50	23 Base Price \$11.00	24 Base Price \$11.50
25 Base Price \$12.00	26 Base Price \$12.50	27 Base Price \$13.00	28 Base Price \$13.50
29 Base Price \$14.00	30 Base Price \$14.50	31 Base Price \$15.00	32 Base Price \$15.50
33 Base Price \$16.00	34 Base Price \$16.50	35 Base Price \$17.00	36 Base Price \$17.50
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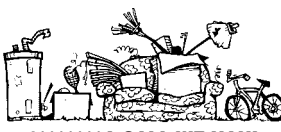
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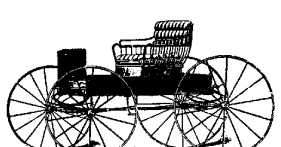
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Interventionist - Job ID 3464636  
Paraprofessional (.5 Life Skills/.5 7th grade) 7D License Requirements - Job ID 3464982  
Preschool Teacher - Job ID 3464541  
School Adjustment Counselor (5-8) - Job ID 3464587  
Paraprofessional (Littleville) 7D License Requirements - Job ID 3464656  
Security Monitor (2nd Shift) - Job ID 3465022  
Special Education Teacher - (K-6) - Job ID 3464608  
Speech Pathologist - Job ID 3464548  
In Home Support Staff - Job ID 3464543  
Long-Term Substitute - Physical Education/Health (September - November) - Job ID 3464661  
Long-Term Substitute - Learning Lab Teacher (5-12) (April-June) - Job ID 3464681

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## Classified Advertising DEADLINES

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FRIDAY AT NOON

HILLTOWNS  
MONDAY AT NOON

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### LOG YARD HELP WANTED!

Forest products manufacturer seeks assistant operator for its busy Russell, MA log concentration yard. This full-time position offers room to grow and is ideal for someone who enjoys working outdoors. Responsibilities include identifying and barcoding logs by species; scaling, grading and sorting logs, debarking, moving, and loading logs onto trailers. Ability to identify North American timber species, scale logs, and operate heavy machinery and log loader highly preferred. We offer an open-air work environment, health insurance, 401k, paid time off, and discounted wood products. Email resume to **info@hullforest.com** or call **(860)377-3427**

**WANTED** Part Time Children's Librarian Russell Public Library. 10-13 hours a week; ideal candidate has: strong history working with children, knowledge and love of children's literature, a vision for introducing children to literature, experience creating activities and programming for children and youth, basic computer ability, dependable and punctual, a cheery, welcoming disposition. **Send cover letter and resume** to Russell Library Trustees, PO Box 275, Russell, MA 01071. Deadline for receipt is April 2.

## REAL ESTATE

### LAND FOR SALE

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

### Town of Williamsburg Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

A Public Hearing will be held at **10:00 AM on Tuesday, April 13, 2021** to consider the following: The application of Robert Ross, 146 Main St. Williamsburg, MA, Assessors Map K, Lots 189 & 190 for a Special Permit to operate a Used Car Dealership as required by Sections 3.2 of the Zoning Bylaws of Williamsburg. The hearing will be conducted by teleconference on the ZOOM platform. Copies of the application and Log-in information can be found at [www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org) under Calendars for April 13, 2021.

Charles Dudek, Chairman  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
03/18, 03/25/2021

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 72 Bliss Street, Florence (Northampton), MA 01062

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jeremy Hewat and Debra Wolohan to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Eastern Bank, and now held by **Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency**,

said mortgage dated March 30, 2006 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 8663, Page 244, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Eastern Bank to Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency by assignment dated August 30, 2018 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 13085, Page 62; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on April 15, 2021 at 11:00 AM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A tract of land, with the buildings thereon, located on the Easterly side of Bliss Street in the Village of Florence, in said Northampton, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at the Northwesterly corner of the granted premises at a stone bound on the Easterly side of Bliss Street; thence running

**EASTERLY** along land now or formerly of one Connors a distance of two hundred fifteen (215) feet, more or less, to an iron pin, which iron pin marks

the Northeasterly corner of the tract herein described, the Southeasterly corner of said land of Connors, the Southwesterly corner of land now or formerly of one Westort, and the Northwesterly corner of land now or formerly of Robert Dunn, formerly of one Januskiewicz; thence proceeding

**SOUTHERLY** along land of said Dunn a distance of eighty-four (84) feet, more or less, to an iron pin; thence proceeding

**WESTERLY** along land now owned by Wade a distance of two hundred fifteen (215) feet, more or less, to an iron pin on the Easterly side of Bliss Street; thence proceeding

**NORTHERLY** along the Easterly side of Bliss Street a distance of eighty-one (81) feet, more or less, to the stone bound at the place of beginning.

**BEING THE SAME PREMISES** conveyed in a deed from Ricki Ellen Kantrowitz and Allan Steven Kantrowitz to Jeremy Hewat and Debra Wolohan, dated March 17, 2006, recorded with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds on March 30, 2006, at Book 8663, page 242.

The description of the property contained in the

mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated March 17, 2006 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 8663, Page 242.

**TERMS OF SALE:** Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

**FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00)** Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC  
1080 Main Street, Suite 200  
Pawtucket, RI 02860  
Attorney for Massachusetts  
Housing Finance Agency  
Present Holder of the  
Mortgage  
401-217-8701  
03/11, 03/18, 03/25/2021

## HISTORY

Take the distinctly American "okay," which started out as an abbreviation: "OK." It was common in the mid-19th century for younger, educated men and women to deliberately misspell words for amusement. For example, the slang for "all correct" became "oll korrekt" or OK, and was sopped up in the American lexicon when the editor of the March 23, 1839 edition of the Boston Morning Post, tagged it "OK" to denote that the copy was "all correct" or—"oll korrekt."

Other newspapers replicated the abbreviation; it diffused all over the world and morphed into "the most frequently spoken word on the planet."

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "OK: The Improbable Story of America's Greatest Word," by Allan Metcalf.

### March Madness

March Madness is overwhelming the nation. It has been that way since March 27, 1939, when the

from page 6

University of Oregon beat Ohio State University 46–33 in the final game of the very first NCAA men's basketball tournament.

If the Super Bowl causes the nation to stop and focus on football for one day, the annual NCAA basketball tournament holds the attention of the nation about three weeks. It starts mid-month when the "first four"—or first round games—are played, and last until the "final four" games culminate with the selection of the two teams that will compete in the championship.

In the beginning, eight schools were invited to participate; this year, 68 will face off in the men's competition.

The inaugural women's NCAA tournament of 1982 had representation from 32 schools; the 2021 line-up will be generated from 64.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "How March Became Madness: How the NCAA Tournament Became the Greatest Sporting Event in America," by Eddie Einhorn and Ron Rapoport.

# PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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# WESTHAMPTON

## Quilt raffle awarded to lucky resident, benefits library

WESTHAMPTON — Chesterfield Road residents Katharine and David Nelson were the winners of the quilt raffle sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Director Meaghan Schwelm drew their ticket, one of the five they had purchased for a total of \$10.

“David and I were very excited to win the beautiful quilt donated to the library for their ‘Fill the Shelves’ initiative,” Katharine Nelson said. “It’s wonderful that the anonymous quilter was inspired to donate it, as a quilt is a labor of love! It’s a very bright addition to our master bedroom.”

The Nelsons moved to Westhampton in 2015, leaving their long-time home on a busy street in Hadley.

“Once we were settled in, we explored the Westhampton library. It’s a great space with something for everyone and a wonderful staff. I have since taken a class in the community room, Geocaching, and we have enjoyed the art that has been exhibited there,” Katharine said. “As a part of CW MARS system Westhampton residents have access to materials from

the collections of other libraries across the state. An amazing resource!”

The Nelsons joined the Friends of the Library a few years ago, realizing that libraries require additional funding.

“There are new materials to obtain, technology to update all the time and programming to pay for. That’s why support from the community is important,” said Katharine.

In all, the quilt raffle raised over \$500 to augment the Friends’ Fill the Shelves initiative, which provides funds to purchase books and other media for the library’s permanent collection. The Friends board would like to thank everyone for their contributions through the purchase of quilt raffle tickets. While the majority were purchased by town residents, some were bought by people in surrounding hilltowns and a few even went to Connecticut and Maryland.

“In addition to cancelling the programming, we had booked to celebrate the library’s 10-year anniversary in 2020,” said Barbara Pelissier, the Friends of the Westhampton Library clerk. “We made the decision to postpone our fundraising appeal last year due to the pandemic and the financial impact it had on so many. In the end, several families decided to contribute to a Friends membership for the first time and we had a successful year, after all. That seems to indicate that it would be ok to send our regular spring appeal next month.”

Until the library can safely open to the public, the director and youth librarian are offering curbside pick-up, pop-up parking lot browsing, take and make crafts, and have expanded the very popular “trybrary” offerings. Anyone who has been served by the library this year or last knows how accommodating the staff has been and how much creativity and positive energy they have expended to help Westhampton residents get through these difficult months, all while following pandemic protocols to keep everyone safe.

The Friends of the Library board announced a new quilt of the same size is being created now to be raffled off in the fall, with the drawing to be held in early December 2021. For updates of all library happenings, check the Belltower, the Country Journal and the library Facebook page, and remember to sign up for monthly updates via email or by calling the library at 413-527-5386.

“There are new materials to obtain, technology to update all the time and programming to pay for. That’s why support from the community is important.”

— Katharine Nelson



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## Homesteading program planned for library events

WESTHAMPTON — A couple new events are on the calendar at the Westhampton Public Library over the next couple weeks including a homesteading program on Tuesday, March 30.

The program — Healthy Soil, Healthy Gardens: Small Scale Practices for Soil Improvement and Carbon Sequestration — will be held on March 30 at 7 p.m. The special presentation co-hosted by the library, Grown in Westhampton and Climate Action Now.

Sharon Gensler is a homesteader, organic grower, and educator with over 38 years of experience using no-till and cover crop soil building practices on a small scale. Maintaining living plant cover is one of the essential practices of building soil health. This workshop provides practical guidance on using cover crops in a small-scale, non-mechanized, no-till context to improve soil health both for growing more nutritious food and for sequestering atmospheric carbon into the soil to help heal climate change.

Special thanks to the Friends and The Lyn Keating Programming Fund for sponsoring this program. Please email [westhampton@cwmar.org](mailto:westhampton@cwmar.org) for a Zoom link if interested in attending.

Online story time with Youth Services Librarian Emily Wayne meets each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.; connect with other families and beat the social isolation. Email [ewayne@cwmar.org](mailto:ewayne@cwmar.org) for Zoom login.

Virtual book group will meet next on Tuesday, March 23, at 7 p.m. Contact [westhampton@cwmar.org](mailto:westhampton@cwmar.org) to request a copy of the March book and a Zoom link.

Young Adult book group will be meeting, but the date hasn’t been decided yet. The group is currently choosing from a selection of award-winning titles to read next. To weigh in on the pick and for details on how to join, please contact Wayne at [ewayne@cwmar.org](mailto:ewayne@cwmar.org). YA Book Group will also be weighing in on new decorations for the teen room Stay tuned for more details.

## SAFETY

from page 1

and equipment from the current Safety Complex to the Highway Garage to be stored until the new building is constructed. The tight timeline is set for eight months, as the Highway Garage will need their space back by the winter for storing and painting their trucks and equipment.

Everyone who put in bids were aware of the tight timeline that the building project was on, so each party is prepared for the timeline ahead of them.

Additionally, the board approved the location for the Annual Caucus; they decided it will be held it at the Highway Garage parking lot, same as last year. People will be gathered outside, but the garage space is available if it rains; the doors would be open to allow required airflow during this continued pandemic.

The Caucus will be held on April 12 at 6:30 p.m. and Dowling expects that the meeting will be fairly quick as it’s mainly nominations for boards and positions. For more information, visit [westhampton-ma.com](http://westhampton-ma.com).

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